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Inter-Arab Affairs

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, Klibi Meet Lebanese

LD0504153889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1413 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus, April 5 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi met here Wednesday with leaders of the mainly Muslim Lebanese parties. The meeting grouped Shaykh Sabah with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, head of the Progressive Socialist Party Walid Junblatt, Secretary General of the Lebanese Communist Party George Hawi, Secretary of Ba'th Party in Lebanon Assim Qansuwa and a number of other Lebanese nationalist figures.

Earlier in the day, Shaykh Sabah, head of the Arab League six-man committee on Lebanon, and Klibi member of the committee, met with Syrian Vice-President 'Abd al-Halim [Khaddam]. Speaking to reporters following the two hour meeting with Khaddam Shaykh Sabah said that the meeting tackled the current situation in Lebanon and described the talks as "good'. Shaykh Sabah expressed optimism that the committee would play a positive role and hoped that it will continue its talks with representatives of the Lebanese Christian parties, known as the "Lebanese Front".

Asked if Lebanese Front representatives refused to meet with the committee in Amman, Shaykh Sabah replied "I have not heard of this, but I believe that bretheren of the Lebanese Front have an interest as we do, to meet and talk with all parties concerned."

On the venue of the proposed meeting with the Lebanese Front, Shaykh [Sabah] said they are welcome in Kuwait, asserting that the present circumstances in Lebanon would not allow the committee to visit Beirut."

The second round of mediation talks was held here on Wednesday between Kuwait's deputy premier and foreign minister, head of the Arab League six-man committee on Lebanon, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and Lebanese nationalist leaderships.

The talks, held at the residence of Kuwait's ambassador to Damascus Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim, were also attended by Arab League chief and member of the Committee Chedli Klibi and director of the Arab nation department at Kuwait's Foreign Ministry Ambassador 'Abd al-Hamid al-Buayjan. Shaykh Sabah had earlier today conferred with those leaderships and later hosted a lunch banquet in their honor.

Al-Sabah Calls for Cease-Fire; Lebanese Comment

JN0504185189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] The Arab good offices committee on Lebanon very sincerely appeals to all warring Lebanese parties to shoulder their national and historic responsibilities, use common sense and logic, renounce violence, and follow the course of dialogue and discussion.

This urgent appeal for a cease-fire was addressed by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad through the news media immediately following his meeting with the leaders of the national Lebanese parties and movements. The meeting lasted over 6 hours and was held at the residence of Kuwaiti Ambassador Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim in the presence of Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

Shaykh Ahmad added: The chairmanship of the Arab committee appeals to all warring Lebanese parties to observe the following:

1. An immediate cease-fire as of midnight tonight.

2. Lifting the siege imposed on all sea and air ports and opening all crossing points.

3. Reconvening the security committee at its previous post to adopt all measures pertaining to halting fire and observing the parties' abidance by the cease-fire.

Al-Ahmad added: The chairmanship of the Arab committee stresses that it will hold urgent contacts with the warring Lebanese parties with the aim of making the necessary arrangements to achieve security and stability in Lebanon. He said everyone who does not abide by the decision will bear a historic responsibility. We, he added, are a committee representing the entire Arab world and I hope our appeal will be heard by all parties.

Regarding his meetimg with the Lebanese politicians, Shaykh al-Ahmad said: It was good. We heard many ideas and concepts that are almost identical to ours in the committee. They expressed full support for the committee and we will meet with the Lebanese Front's parties and afterward there will be a full picture of the issue. When communications improve, the Lebanese Front's parties will be hosted by us in Kuwait.

Walid Junblatt said: We wish the committee every success and we will extend to it every possible support to fulfill the Lebanese and Arab hopes and reach a cease-fire.

George Hawi said: Brother Walid Junblatt has expressed the opinion of us all about the committee's efforts, and we favor a cease-fire.

'Asim Qansuh said: We support the statement made by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to cease firing and cancel all the measures that were taken.

'Umar Karami said: We presented a memorandum in which we explained all the solutions we have for the Lebanese crisis. This is first of all linked to Lebanon's Arab identity and to simultaneity between reforms and elections.

Nabih Birri said: During this expanded marathon meeting, a profound discussion was held. Everyone expressed his viewpoint. It was proved that the war in Lebanon is not between Muslims and Christians nor between Lebanon and Syria, but a war between the Lebanese and the political Maronites.

He added: The Lebanese system is the source of trouble and it is now losing its last stronghold, which is the military Maronites. We have explained our stand that there can be no solution other than a political solution based on canceling political sectarianism and changing the regime. We are not against simultaneity, said Birri, between this and the presidential elections provided that it precedes the subject of reforms.

Birri added: We hope the Arab committee will succeed in its efforts, but we do not think that the other party is serious about reforms.

President Hafiz al-Asad received Sabah al-Ahmad and Chedli Klibi a short while ago in the presence of Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Kuwaiti ambassador to Syria. The meeting is going on.

Further on Cease-Fire Appeal

JN0504213289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Shaykh Sabah Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwait's deputy prime minister and foreign minister and head of the Arab ministerial committee on Lebanon, and Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, today held a meeting with leaders of Lebanon's nationalist parties within the framework of the fourth round of talks the committee has been holding with Lebanese sides. During the meeting, views were exchanged about the best approaches to a resolution of the Lebanese crisis.

The nationalist leaders have emphasized that the ongoing conflict in Lebanon is not one between Muslims and Christians. Rather it is one between the Lebanese on the one hand and on the other political Maronism and the sectarian system that hides under the umbrella of the enemies of Lebanon and the Arabs to retain sectarian privilges. The nationalist leaders stressed that they are now fighting a battle to defend the Arab identity of Lebanon, its unity, and independence.

They commended the support extended by Syria in the interests of safeguarding Lebanon and saving it from the clutches of the Zionist conspiracy being exectued by Israel's agents in the country.

At the end of the meeting, Walid Junblatt, chief of the Progressive Socialist Party, delcared his support for the Arab committee's efforts, stressing that the aim is to protect Lebanon's Arab identity, since this will in effect protect pan-Arabism in every Arab country.

Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri emphasized that the nationalist parties and forces back the Arab ministerial committee's efforts and said: It is the isolationists that stand in the way of reform and that sparked off the security crisis when they felt that the moment of truth had approached or even arrived and that all the parties have grown convinced that there is no way out short of the implementation of political reform of the Lebanese system. Birri explained that he is not opposed to a simultaneous presidential vote and implementation of political reforms.

Shaykh al-Sabah read out to the journalists a plea from the Arab ministerial committee to all the Lebanese parties:

[Begin recording] [Al-Sabah] We are delighted to be in Damascus and to have the opportunity to meet with the nationalist front and the brothers with whom we have conferred for several hours. I consider the meeting to have been good. We have had the opportunity to hear many ideas, which are practically identical to ours on the committee. At the same time, we found them, as you did, to be totally supportive of the committee and its endeavors. The committee will pursue its efforts until Lebanon achieves stability and love free of discrimination among the children of the homeland.

[Unidentified reporter] Are there certain proposals that will be announced?

[Al-Sabah] There are no proposals because, God willing, we will meet with the Lebanese Front and afterward there will be a full picture of the issue, especially after we have....

[Unidentified reporter, interrupting] The Lebanese Front said it will not....

[Al-Sabah, interrupting] We will address an appeal in this regard. It is addressed to all the Lebanese warring parties. I would like to read it to you so that we will be satisfied with what it says:

In view of the serious and regretful developments of the security situation in Lebanon, which led to the fall of a large number of innocent victims—children, women, elderly, and other innocent people, and they are our kinfolk—in the tragic fighting raging in Lebanon; and in view of the resultant destruction of the economic institutions and civilian utilities, something which has robbed the Lebanese people of the vital components of their existence; the Arab good offices committee on Lebanon, which was pained by the ordeal afflicting the Lebanese people—an ordeal that has recently intensified—very sincerely appeals to all warring Lebanese parties to shoulder their national and historic responsibilities, use common sense and logic, renounce violence, and follow the course of dialogue and understanding.

The chairmanship of the Arab good offices committee on Lebanon appeals to all warring Lebanese parties to observe the following:

1. To immediately cease fire as of the zero hour of Thursday, 6 April 1989.

2. To lift the sieges imposed on all sea and air ports and to open all crossing points.

3. To reconvene the security committee at its previous post to adopt all measures pertaining to halting fire and observing the parties' abidance by the cease-fire.

The chairmanship of the Arab committee stresses it will hold urgent contacts with the warring Lebanese parties with the aim of making the necessary arrangements to achieve security and stability in Lebanon.

The committee, while addressing this appeal to the warring Lebanese parties, hopes they will be aware of their historic responsibility by sparing bloodshed and stopping destruction. It is God who grants success. [end recording]

Islamic Affairs

Islamic World League Official Threatened

PM0504110289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Apr 89 pp 1-2

[Muhammad al-Tunisi and Hasin al-Bunyan report: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Reveals: New Threats to Al-Ahdal's Colleague"]

[Excerpts] London, Brussels, Riyadh, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Official sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT further threats received by the director of the Islamic World League office in an important European capital, which the sources described as similar to those received by 'Abdallah al-Ahdal (Saudi national aged 37), the imam and head of the Islamic Center and the Islamic World League office, who was assassinated with his assistant Salim al-Bahri (Tunisian national) in the Belgian capital, Brussels, last Wednesday evening.

The sources asked that the name of the league office director and the capital in which he works be withheld for security reasons.

Contacted by telephone by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the director of the Islamic World League office concerned confirmed the threats, stating his wish that his name and place of work be published.

Islamic World League Secretary General 'Abdallah 'Umar Nasif stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by telephone that the league was in the process of adopting further security precautions and measures to protect the directors of its offices and Islamic centers in the world against any attacks similar to the incident in which 'Abdallah al-Ahdal was assassinated. [passage omitted]

In Brussels the Belgian police told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by telephone yesterday that inquiries into the assassination of Al-Ahdal and his assistant have revealed that a single weapon was used in the killings and that four bullets were fired from it. The police also said this has promoted the belief that the operation was carried out by a single gunman.

The police denied to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reports they have been contacted by an organization claiming responsibility for the assassination. They pointed out that they knew from the news agencies that a Beirut organization called the Soldiers of God [Jund Allah] had claimed responsibility for the incident. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Abdallah Hurani Discusses PLO-U.S. Dialogue

JN0504150989 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 3 Apr 89 p 6

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani by Fatimah Mansur—date and place not given]

[Text] [Mansur] The U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, which began in Reagan's time, has produced almost nothing. The second session of dialogue came after Bush's assumption of power. Have you sensed a change in the U.S. stands toward the Palestine question and the PLO during the second session?

[Hurani] The first session was ceremonial on the occasion of the dialogues' beginning rather than involvement in details. The second session shifted the dialogue to a serious stage, and peace concepts and principles were discussed for the first time. The U.S. side expressed its known viewpoint and fixed four principles for peace in the Middle East. These are Resolutions 242 and 338, land for peace, Israel's security, and the Palestinian people's political rights. They said all topics of negotiation should conform with these principles, and this is the U.S. viewpoint.

The Palestinian viewpoint was represented in the Palestinian peace plan based on Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian Arab territory, placing the occupied Palestinian territories under UN supervision as a step toward enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their rights and self-determination, and holding an international peace conference to be attended by the PLO, Israel, and all concerned parties in the region, in addition to the Security Council's five permanent member states. Preparations will be made for the international conference through consultative meetings held by the Security Council's five permanent member states or through an open Security Council session in which the Palestine question is discussed.

An envoy for the UN Secretary General will contact the concerned parties and coordinate stands or hold bilateral talks between the parties to the conflict such as the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, the Israeli-Soviet dialogue, or even Israeli-Palestinian dialogues—that is, between the PLO and Israel and not between Israeli and Palestinian circles in the occupied territory.

These preparatory issues can be called dialogues aimed at preparing for the international conference. As for negotiations and details, these can be discussed only within the framework of the international conference.

[Mansur] You say the Americans displayed seriousness in the second meeting. Do you mean to say the American side agreed in principle to the Palestinian working paper?

[Hurani] Each presented its own viewpoint. This is neither the first nor the last session of the American-Palestinian dialogue. The Palestinian side raised certain questions vis-a-vis the American conception of Palestinian political rights. Such questions cannot possibly be answered offhand by the American side, especially given that the American Administratin says: We are still in the process of studying the issue.

We cannot do everything in one session. The PLO asked the American side to be more specific in outlining their position. This goes for the political rights of the Palestinian people, U.S. apathy over Israel's crimes in the occupied land, and why the Untied States vetos UN Security Council resolutions on Israeli terror against our people in the occupied territory. The Palestinian side raised all these issues, and these are bound to be pursued in the coming sessions. Coming sessions will also take up the American ideas, namely the four points that constitue the backbone of the American position and on which they think peace can be established.

[Mansur] Did you sense that the American position during the dialogue was serious about advancing the Palestinian cause, or do you think they have been maneuvering?

[Hurani] It is hard to say the United States is being serious as far as serving the interests of the Palestinian cause. As a party with international responsibilities toward world peace, the United States is showing interest in establishing peace in the Middle East. But whether the American conception of peace is identical to that of the Arabs and Palestinians is another matter. There are differences of perception. The United States has said over and over that it is interested in Israel's security, and this is nothing new to us. We know that Israel's security is at the top of Washington's priorities.

The Palestinian side wants, through the dialogue, to win their people's rights. Whatever peace agreement is reached in the Middle East must balance the interests of all parties. Neither Israel nor the PLO and Palestinian people have an exclusive presence in the Middle East. The Palestinian people have goals and interests that must be met. Israel will be serious about peace only when it concedes the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and statehood.

Only within such a framework can there be peace. It is up to the Palestinian and Arab sides to bring the Americans around to thinking in terms of peace for all sides rather than for one of them and the interests of all sides rather than those of one of them. The PLO should not be left on its own to move in the international arena, the United States and Europe. The Arabs must move toward explaining our perception of peace.

[Mansur] How should they go about it, do you think?

[Hurani] The Arabs should adopt the Palestinian peace project enunciated by the Palestine National Council [PNC]. The PLO should not be left to move alone in the international arena. The Arabs should make a collective effort. The PLO wants an early Arab summit to reinforce the Arab peace project, which is the Fes blueprint and the emergency Algiers summit resolutions.

We would want the proposed Arab summit to embrace the Palestinian peace blueprint based on an Arab peace formula in order for the world to feel that the entire Arab nation is interested in the establishment of peace and thus the Palestinian moves are bolstered. The Arabs and Palestinians will then enjoy such a role to enable them to impose their terms and bring their perception of peace to the fore in the international arena.

[Mansur] Has the second round set a date for the coming session of talks with the Americans?

[Hurani] We made a point of continuing the dialogue. The next session may be held in the course of the next few weeks.

[Mansur] Are there American-Palestinian contacts under way to prepare the third meeting?

[Hurani] There is no reason why the ambassador of the State of Palestine should not meet with his American counterpart. The official dialogue will, however, resume in the coming few weeks.

[Mansur] It has been said that in its second meeting with the Palestinian side in Tunis, the U.S. side raised the issue of elections in the occupied territories. How true is this?

[Hurani] Any attempt by any side, especially Israel, to abort the uprising under any pretext, be it under the slogans of ending violence, self-restraint, providing factors of trust in preparation for the peace process, or holding elections in the occupied territories, is an exposed attempt, which, consequently, is rejected by the PLO leadership, the intifadah [uprising], and the intifadah leadership.

This is the PLO's decision, which has been communicated and will be communicated in current and future meetings and which is being declared on all levels.

Regarding the issue of proposed elections, I have announced that "there will be no elections under the occupation at all." Israel claims that it is interested in the Palestinian people's democratic rights. It wants to deceive some international powers with the shining slogan of democracy and concern for democracy. It wants to convince the world that the PLO rejects democracy because, as it alleges, the PLO is undemocratic.

We say these claims are exposed. If Israel is concerned about the Palestinian people and democracy, there are 186 Palestine National Council [PNC] members in the occupied territories who were elected by their unions and municipalities. Let it allow them to participate in the PNC meetings.

On the other hand, why should prior elections be imposed on the Palestinian people? Israel held its elections in 1949. This was 1 year after the establishment of Israel. Why is it now insisting on prior Palestinian elections? When Ben-Gurion was appointed as first Israeli prime minister, he was elected by nobody. If this did not apply to the Israeli people themselves, why should it apply to the Palestinian people? Why should only the Palestinian people in the occupied territories hold elections?

If there will be elections, let all the Palestinian people hold elections, but after the evacuation of the occupiers.

In this case, the Palestinian people will be holding their elections as self-determination.

We know Israel's objective. It wants to split the Palestinian people in and outside the occupied territories. We know that Israel's objective is to look for an alternative to the PLO leadership and give prominence to a new leadership. During the proposed elections, Israel will seek to divide the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland and preoccupy them with something else other than the intifadah.

For all these reasons, the PLO has said and is still saying—and will assert this now and tomorrow—no to any form of elections under occupation. Even if there were certain sides (Israel and those who adopt its viewpoint) who desire an Israeli dialogue with Palestinian figures inside [the occupied territories] and view this as an alternative to Israel's recognition of the PLO and negotiating with it, then the PLO—and the residents of the occupied territories before it—will stop these forms of dialogue.

[Mansur] As a result of the proceedings of the second round of Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, are you optimistic about a change in the policy of the new U.S. Administration toward the PLO and the Palestine question?

[Hurani] There are developments in international politics and the international arena, and the United States must take these into account. It is difficult to say that the current U.S. Administration is a carbon copy or a replica of the previous administration or that its policy is a verbatim implementation of the previous administration's policy.

The PLO's stand is clear in the peace proposals, which were determined by the recent meetings of the PNC and which the PLO was pursuing and seeking.

The recent PNC resolutions came to translate a policy practiced by the PLO and Palestinian popular demands. In spite of this, the previous administration, because the circumstances available now were not available then, did not allow any development of the situation.

The new U.S. Administration then came. On the one hand, it will continue the policies practiced by the previous administration and, on the other, will improve some of them, such as the policy of international detente and disarmament.

As for the policy of solving regional problems, which began during the previous administration and was not finished, developments in the Palestine question may not have been as clear as they are now and did not enjoy the international support they enjoy now. Therefore, the new administration cannot place itself against the whole world at a time when this world, and Europe in particular, is demanding a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis.

Therefore, we say: The new U.S. Administration must take these developments into account and set its policy in light of them. Here, signs in the U.S. policy on this began to appear.

The Government of Israel and some of the Jewish communities—whether in the United States, Europe, or inside the U.S. Administration itself, like the Senate and Congress—were all pressing in the direction of stopping dialogue with the PLO. The U.S. Administration did not respond, and this is a positive sign. It continued the dialogue and entered into serious issues in this dialogue. There are also the statements made by U.S. Secretary of State Baker, who said that in the future, Israel must not rule out the possibility of dialogue with the PLO if it does not find a Palestinian side from the Palestinian people. This is also a kind of development in the U.S. Administration's stand.

Secretary Baker was quoted as saying that Israel cannot continue to wager on the U.S. veto at the Security Council on the Israeli settlement policy forever. This is also a positive sign about the new U.S. stand.

These signs, in addition to the international circumstances, the continuation of the intifadah, and the Arab and PLO moves, as well as movement within Israeli society and the world Jewish communities, which the PLO is trying to influence, will all contribute to pressing for the development of the U.S. stand.

[Mansur] Does this mean there are signs that the international conference will soon be held? And what do you think of some Palestinian statements that delaying the international conference is not that important and what is important is for the PLO to negotiate from a strong position?

[Hurani] The international conference should be held within the shortest possible time. Preparation for it should be accomplished within a few months so that it will be held by the end of this year or the beginning of next year at the latest, because the continuation of the current situation does not serve world peace. Hence, it is not against the interests of the Palestinian people only but also against the Israelis' interests. In other words, delaying the international conference may cause the situation in the Middle East to explode, and this poses a danger not only to the Middle East region but also to the whole world.

[Mansur] What point have Palestinian-Soviet relations reached, especially at this stage—the stage of escalating the Palestinian peace offensive and the stage of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue?

[Hurani] Palestinian-Soviet relations are at their best state of coordination. The present dynamism of Soviet policy increases the value of this relationship and the possibility of achieving gains for the Palestinian policy and the Palestine question.

The new Soviet policy and political dynamism as manifested in Eduard Shevardnadze's tours, international detente, and promotion of Soviet-European and Soviet-U.S. ties increase the value of the Soviet role in the international arena in general. They also increase the positive effect of this role in the Middle East peace process.

[Mansur] How do you view the Soviet-Israeli dialogue?

[Hurani] We view the Soviet dialogue with the Israeli side as one meant to apply pressure and tell Israel that if it wants peace and normal relations with the Soviet Union it should accept a peace based on balanced interests, taking into consideration the Palestinian people's interests and aims for liberation and independence.

[Mansur] In light of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and recent developments, what are the PLO's next moves on the Palestinian peace project toward convening the international conference?

[Hurani] The PLO will, in the first instance, use all means at its disposal for the intifadah to escalate to ensure dynamic movement in the international arena. The PLO will also remain active with all international forces. Furthermore, it is now conducting a dialogue with the United States, and will work to intensify its contacts with American public opinion. It will also step up its efforts on the European scene to encourage a more vigorous European role and apply pressure to change U.S. and Israeli policies.

Already European delegations have been visiting the United States and Israel, as well as making contacts with the PLO. It is also important that we maintain contact and coordination with the Soviet Union and try to invest in Moscow's relations with Washington and the Europeans. The PLO is seeking to bring all these factors into play in the interests of convening the international conference.

[Mansur] How much progress has been made in your efforts to obtain recognition of the Palestinian state by European nations, especially given the fact that there has been a softening on the Palestinian cause in Europe?

[Hurani] As long as there is development in the European position in the direction of dealing with the PLO, recognizing Palestinian rights, denouncing Israeli crimes, and applying pressure on Israel, the question of recognizing the Palestinian state can come later and is no headache for us.

[Mansur] And what about Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] French visit and his meeting with President Mitterrand?

[Hurani] President Mitterand's announcement represents a significant European and French development. France has clout in the international arena, and Mitterrand will see 'Arafat in his capacity as chief of the PLO—the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The meeting will have a positive impact. I would rather not discuss the visit before it takes place.

[Mansur] What do you think of Margaret Thatcher's recent visit to Morocco?

[Hurani] This also is a positive development in the European position. That Britian should be talking about the international conference attended by the permanent members of the UN Security Council and the PLO is symptomatic of a positive shift. Add to that William Waldegrave's visit to the occupied land and the region, and British statements. These add up to positive developments. Britain's distinct ties with the United States are known to all of us. We all know that Britain is the European nation that can most influence the United States.

[Mansur] Are there high-level British-Palestinian contacts under way?

[Hurani] It is hoped the Arab seven-man committee, which will go to London, will include a senior Palestinian envoy.

[Mansur] What are the most important results of the recent Palestinian-Jordanian-Egyptian summit, and what is the basis on which consultations were held and through which the move was made?

[Hurani] The aim behind the recent Palestinian-Jordanian-Egyptian summit was to consult on what can be proposed to the U.S. Administration to expedite the peace process, especially since Yitzahaq Shamir's visit will take place between the visits of Mubarak and Husayn.

Therefore, consultation among the three Arab leaders was necessary and useful. The basis on which this consultation and meeting took place was the international trends of peace represented in the Palestinian peace trends.

[Mansur] What is the nature of Palestinian-Syrian relations now? How true is what is reported about current high-level Syrian-Palestinian contacts between the Syrian and Palestinian leaderships?

[Hurani] The latest development in Palestinian-Syrian relations is that during his visit to Algiers within his recent tour, President al-Asad expressed his readiness to meet with a Palestinian delegation. The Algerian brothers have informed us of this new Syrian stand, and we responded to it. However, to give this expected, forthcoming meeting or dialogue a chance to succeed, and to allow the brothers to contribute toward developing the meeting, we proposed that the meeting take place in Algiers between the Palestinian and Syrian delegations with the attendance of the Algerian brothers. The timing of this meeting is left for the Algerian brothers, in light of their contacts with the Syrians.

Our hearts are open and arms extended to all Arab brothers, including the Syrian brothers. However, we do not wish to discuss the PLO's policy and directions, since this policy has popular Palestinian and Arab unanimity because they are based on the resolutions of the Arab summits, whether in Fez or Algiers, to which we and the Syrians have agreed and committed ourselves.

[Mansur] What is your assessment of the situation in the Palestinian arena at the current time? What do you think about the contradictory statements made by some leaders, and why should there not be an agreement inside the Palestinian house on the means to move and make statements?

[Hurani] First, I wish to state a fact decisively: There is complete popular unity and unity of political stand in the intifadah and the occupied territories. Therefore, there is nothing to fear, and no one can influence the popular unity of the intifadah.

Anyone who takes stands against the policy pursued by the PLO now will not affect the intifadah, but rather will isolate himself from the intifadah in view of this popular rallying around the PLO's leadership and its political program.

Second, regarding the state of affairs inside the PLO, we must not forget that the PLO is formed of nationalist forces and that these forces do not have identical opinions and concepts. The common denominator that links them is the PLO's national program. [sentence as published]

We must also not forget that, among the forces that constitute the PLO, there are some that have a viewpoint on this political program adopted by the PLO.

Therefore, we must not feel uncomfortable when this or that Palestinian nationalist party expresses its viewpoint, which it expressed in the PNC. But, what is firm and confirmed is that the PLO's policy is based on the political program adopted by the PNC with an overwhelming majority. The PLO moves on the international arena on that basis.

I wonder why the PLO is given special treatment, that is, taken to account differently from the way in which other countries are taken to account or treated. There is opposition and there is a majority in every country. The PLO's policy now is the program of the Palestinian majority in the Palestinian arena. The Palestinian opposition has its own viewpoint, but is it this national opposition or viewpoint with which the PLO is moving and about which it is talking? No, the PLO moves according to the program of the majority, as approved by the PNC, and there is no fear about Palestinian unity. We respect viewpoints, but what remains is the leadership's program as approved by the PNC.

[Mansur] What about the results of the PLO Central Council?

[Hurani] The Central Council is holding its first session following the recent PNC session to follow up the implementation of resolutions, assess the stage in which the leadership has moved in the international arena, brief the council on the overall political changes that occurred during this period, and follow up the affairs on the intifadah. This is an ordinary Central Council meeting.

[Mansur] During its recent meeting, the PLO Executive Committee decided to assign the task of president of the Palestinian state to Yasir 'Arafat. What is your legal viewpoint about the decision? Also it is known that a minister is usually apppointed by a government, so what do you think of the Executive Committee's decision to appoint a foreign minister for the Palestinian state?

[Hurani] Since the establishment of the Palestinian state was declared and about 100 states recognized it, this recognized state is entitled to have relations with other states and to exchange ambassadors with them. Therefore, we deemed it necessary to have someone who can exercise the powers of president of the Palestinian state so that these states can be dealt with accordingly and with the embassies of the Palestinian state at these states and these states' embassies at the Palestinian leadership. The Executive Committee decided to name brother Abu 'Ammar president to assume the task of addressing the states that have recognized the Palestinian state.

As for Foreign Minister Faruq Qaddumi, the matter is different from that of the state presidency. When the PNC adopted a resolution declaring the establishment of a Palestinian state in Algiers, it adopted another resolution entrusting the PLO Executive Committee with the task of carrying out the duties of the provisional government of the State of Palestine. Hence, all the Executive Committee members are exercising their duties as members of the provisional Palestinian government. Consequently, naming brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] as foreign minister is not abnormal, because there is a legal PNC resolution on this.

[Mansur] Some say the proclamation and formation of a Palestinian government will take place when international circumstances are favorable. Do you think the current circumstances are favorable for the proclamation of a government?

[Hurani] We have not thus far felt that we are in a situation that dictates that we must form a provisional government. Neither has the Executive Committee found itself in a situation under which it cannot perform the tasks of a provisional government.

PLO Radio Lauds Recent Bush Statement

JN0504155389 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1850 GMT 4 Apr 89

["Talk of the Intifadah" feature: "Our Constants Are Intact and Our Initiatives Are Continuing, Evoking Seriousness and Urgency"]

[Text] To the masses of our heroic people on the soil of the raging homeland; to our giant generations and our revolutionary youth; to the heroes of our strike groups and the vanguard of our popular army; to the valiant members of the youth, popular, and specialized committees; to our brothers and sisters working at national unions, associations, societies, and institutions.

The fact of the unanimous election of brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] as the first president of the first independent Palestinian state has continued to shine and interact within the hearts of millions of our Palestinian people along the territories of the homeland and in the diaspora, considering that this great and important step—namely the election of brother Abu 'Ammar as the president of our independent state—represents good news containing happiness, optimism, and unfailing confidence over the imminence of the day of certain victory and full independence.

The image of brother Abu 'Ammar, our president, leader, and symbol of our national struggle, has been embedded within the hearts of Palestinian generations, bestowed with dear confidence and with great affection, as he is the symbol who has continued to carry the torch of the revolution, the cause, and the Palestinian identity forging ahead, displaying a unique courage, a great wisdom, and an illuminating inspiration and with which he has overcome all kinds of difficulties and all obstacles to realize the victory, which is the only option before us, and achieve the indispensable independence. God be praised, God be praised; as He has enabled us, the sons of these generations, to pass the tests successfully, thus enabling us to see with our own eyes the results of our struggle, endeavors, jihad, and sacrifices materialize and turn into sweet-tasting fruits, an uncontainable happiness and an aspiration firmly fulfilled at last.

Here we are making one more step everyday toward the gate of our Palestinian house, as the gathering in of the Palestinians will be made possible and as the generations are forging their great destinies in the independent State of Palestine, whose flag will shortly flutter high in Palestine over the minarets, domes, towers, and walls of holy Jerusalem. The extent of this positive effect, which is being made by our accomplishments in the fields of action, struggle, and legendary confrontations and clashes, has brought about wide-ranging changes in many arenas.

With regard to the United States, President George Bush said at a press conference following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak that the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip cannot continue any longer. He also stressed the need for convening an international Middle East peace conference and said that suitable preparations must be made for the convening of this conference.

These statements by U.S. President George Bush clearly show that the Zionist illusions regarding effecting a retreat in the U.S. stand have become dead delusions, especially when we know that preparations are being currently made for the third session of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. Thus, the tours of Arens and Shamir, not to mention the boisterous statements by Arik [Ari'el] Sharon are no more than failed attempts to escape from the Palestinian reality.

All these political accomplishments are based on solid foundations comprising our Palestinian constants, the legality provided by the resolutions adopted by our Palestine National Council sessions, and the firmness and constancy of all our forms and manifestations of national unity. Moreover, all of these accomplishments are being built on a solid basis, provided by the steadfastness and heroism displayed by our people in Lebanon and the continuation and escalation of our heroic and blessed intifadah [uprising], which is about to enter its 17th month, as it is also preparing to mark the elapse of 500 days since it was launched. And here we are talking about the days of glorious giving, unparalleled creativity, great sacrifices, and splendid accomplishments.

Here the waves of Zionist terrorism and rancor, the series of Zionist conspiracies and maneuvers, and the scenarios of Israeli plans and proposals are all collapsing, breaking, and recoiling under the feet of our heroic generations and in the face of the firmness of the resistance, the valiance of the confrontation, the fierceness of clashes, the great performance, and the spirit of initiative, courage, and confidence characterizing us and our valiant Palestinian generations—the generations of the intifadah, which gave shape to the Palestinian struggle and the Palestinian right, thus making it shine further in all directions in the entire world.

All citizens of our people; all children who hurl stones at the enemies; all youths who set the occupiers' vehicles ablaze using Molotov cocktails; all heroes who snatch helmets, rifles, or batons from the occupation troops; all those with daring hearts who kick gas cannisters with their own feet, thus making them recoil to suffocate the soldiers who fired them; all of our heroic prisoners, the prisoners of the ongoing war who have been turning their own affliction in prison cells into glaring daylight and the courtyards of prisons into arenas for clashes and resistance; all of our militant women who have been working miracles on all levels; all strata of our people—students, teachers, merchants, farmers, peasants, doctors of medicine, engineers, pharmacists, technicians, journalists, writers, intelligentsia, and professionals; our heroic members of the strike groups and of the units of the valiant popular army; unconquerable men in the youth committees; and in our popular, union, and charity frameworks:

We would like to send you all a thousand greetings and all sentiments of pride and affection and to tell you that the dawn is close at hand and that the signs of victory will glitter in our land. Then, feel good that good results will be realized thanks to your struggle and sacrifices. It is revolution until victory.

Qaddumi Says Bush Statement 'Step Forward'

JN0604081689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0615 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Doha, 5 Apr (WAKH)—PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi has called on the Arab countries to place the Palestine question, being a pan-Arab question, at the top of their interests and political moves. He also called for more Arab efforts and pressure, through joint interests with the world, to help convene the international conference and begin the peace process.

In a news conference he held in Doha tonight, Mr Qaddumi said the PLO is the main party to the international conference, in so far as the Palestine question is concerned. The continuation of the intifadah [uprising], he said, will be the greatest and basic factor that forces Israel to attend the international peace conference.

Qaddumi explained that the current Arab commitments focus on supporting the intifadah as a successful means for reaching a just settlement in the region. The impact and achievements of the intifadah, he said, prove beyond any doubt that the popular war is the Palestinian people's method to resist occupation and regain rights, including the establishment of the independent state.

The Palestinian official, currently visiting Qatar, said the intifadah had proved more effective than conventional war.

On the Arab summit, Qaddumi said the next summit is required to clear the Arab atmosphere from the very few remaining differences and draft a view for common Arab action on the basic Arab issues, at the top of which is the Palestine question.

Asked what the U.S. Administration meant when it spoke about the political rights of the Palestinian people as an alternative to the legitimate Palestinian right to independence and the establishment of the state, Qaddumi stressed the Palestinian people's determination to achieve the right to self-determination, the establishment of the state declared by the Palestine National Council, and the return of the Palestinians to their land.

Qaddumi expressed the belief that the latest statement by U.S. President George Bush is a positive verbal development and a step forward, but needs to be translated into practice.

On the expected meeting between Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and French President Mitterrand, Qaddumi said the meeting will have a long-range political impact on the Palestine question. Our assessment of the meeting, however, must depend on its outcome, he said.

PFLP's Habash 'Supports' 'Arafat Presidency

JN0504124289 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 3 Apr 89 p 7

[Excerpts] Dr George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has affirmed that the Palestinian state, which he demands should be sovereign, should not be a weapons-free state and should have Jerusalem as its capital. He said that the international conference should enjoy full powers and should not be merely a framework for direct negotiations.

At a news conference at the Palestinian Embassy in Kuwait yesterday, Habash said that Israel will propose a weapons-free state with Jericho, Ramallah, or a third city as a capital and will keep the settlements. He added that Israel will also say that the Qalqilyah area is sensitive, that it cannot withdraw from all territories occupied in 1967, and that after the establishment of the state Palestinians will never think of repatriation. [passage omitted]

Asked about the conflicting statements being made by Palestinian leaders—statements that negatively affect the Palestine question—and the obstacles that prevent a meeting of these leaders to agree on the PLO's moves, Habash said: The intifadah [uprising] should prompt us to introduce a real democratic reform in the PLO to enable it to reach the required level of progress. The PLO is not a group of factions that can say whatever they wish. It is a unified front, but every faction can maintain its right to ideological independence. However, the PLO speaks as one voice and has one military force on all levels.

Habash pointed out that, as a Palestinian official, he feels responsible and is also ashamed because 22 years after these factions assumed responsibility in the PLO, the Palestinian revolution has not yet reached the required level. He said that if we want to attain that level, the Palestinian home should draw up concerted bases. He pointed out that, if we want unity of word in the statements being made by PLO leaders on the Palestine question, we should reconsider the makeup of the PLO's institutions on the basis of relative representation.

He added: During the Palestine National Council's [PNC] recent session, we raised our voice against Resolution No 242. More than 44 votes, which represent 16 percent of the PNC, also supported us. He pointed out that at that time an independent Arab newspaper, with which the front has no connection, took an opinion poll. One of the questions was: Do you agree on Israel's right to exist in return for the establishment of a Palestinian state? The result of the poll was that 72 percent objected.

Asked whether his call for changing the Palestinian institutions means that he rejects all recent PNC resolutions, he said: We opposed Resolution No 242. We are for the establishment of the state, for the resolution on the government, and for the political statement in general. He added that the PFLP calls for an honest implementation of the PNC resolutions, stressing that Resolution 242 does not mean recognition of Israel's right. He said that the late leader 'Abd al-Nasir recognized Resolution 242, but not Israel's right.

Asked about 'Arafat's nomination to the post of the president of the Palestinian State, he said: The PFLP supports the nomination because he is the PLO Executive Committee chairman, explaining that the PFLP does not support 'Arafat as a person outside the PLO Executive Committee.

In reply to a question on why he has not previously called for a change in Palestinian institutions, Dr Habash said: We faced a group of basic issues, foremost of which are the disengagement of relations announced by King Husayn and the issues of the state and government. Therefore, we could not discuss this subject, pointing out that the PFLP feels that the PNC's forthcoming session should deal with it. He also affirmed that our demand for a change is a legitimate right and that this is the only way to organize the Palestinian arena.

Habash added: Every honest person will certainly seek a reorganization of the PLO institutions on a new basis, not a personal basis.

Asked whether he will participate in the provisional government, he said: Our participation will be based on the program of the PLO and the government, on repatriation, and on self-determination. He added that the PFLP is part of the PLO.

In reply to a question on his opinion of Egypt's current role in favor of the cause, he said: First, I want to say that I am hurt because, after the intifadah has been continuing for 16 months, the Egyptian people are still in the middle of Tel Aviv. Undoubtedly, this is offensive not only to the Palestinian people, but to everybody. When the Egyptian ambassador is withdrawn from Tel Aviv and the initiative of repatriation, the state, and self-determination remain, then we may feel optimistic about the Egyptian role. [sentence as published]

Regarding his expectations from the policy of the new U.S. Administration and his opinion on the Palestinian dialogue with the U.S. side, he said: Until now, the U.S. Administration's objective behind the opening of dialogue is to bypass the intifadah. However, this does not mean that we call for stopping the dialogue, although we must keep a close watch on the U.S. Administration's plans.

Dr Habash explained here the difference between renouncing and abandoning terrorism by saying: We all renounce terrorism. But, when the U.S. Administration demands that we renounce terrorism, this means that we were, in the past, terrorists practicing terrorism while the Palestinian revolution has always been fighting for freedom.

Answering a question, he said: The concessions made by the PLO will increase Israeli intransigence and wreck the Palestinian internal front.

Regarding the Palestinian passport, Dr Habash said: This subject will be discussed during the Arab interior ministers' meeting. The PLO is preparing a study and a proposal and will submit them to the interior ministers.

Regarding his opinion about the means to deliver aid to the intifadah, he said: Means and methods of aid are not a problem. The problem that must be treated is how to deliver that aid to the masses of the intifadah in the camps inside the occupied territories.

Habash said: We in the PFLP believe that all aid must be channeled through the Unified Leadership, which is divided into leaderships in each region, city, and neighborhood. These in turn are divide into committees.

Habash asserted that it is important to organize the aid.

Hawatimah Congratulates 'Arafat on Election

JN0504214689 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1822 GMT 5 Apr 89

["Text" of cable from Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, to Yasir 'Arafat, "president of the State of Palestine"—date not given]

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine: Greetings of the revolution. On your appointmemt as first president of the independent State of Palestine, we extend to you militant greetings on this precious confidence that has been unanimously expressed by our PLO Central Council. This appointment is an expression of high appreciation for your great command and national role throughout all stages of our national struggle to reach the lofty independence of our Palestinian state in the liberated homeland.

The decision to appoint you is an (?indication) of our people's determination, represented by the PLO and its representational and command bodies, and after the proclamation of the independence of the State of Palestine at our National Council, that full independence is the only solution for the sake of which the intifadah [uprising] is continuing.

We are confident that the decision of our Central Council will constitute a new factor to strengthen and consolidate our people's great popular intifadah. This decision will enhance the status of the State of Palestine on Arab and international levels.

Fatah, DFLP Issue Joint Statement

JN0504191489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1745 GMT 5 Apr 89

["Text" of joint political statement issued by Fatah and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine on 4 April—place not given]

[Text] Several meetings were held between the leaderships of the Fatah Movement and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] in the presence of Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine; and Comrade Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP; as well as brothers Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]; Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], and Hakam Bal'awi from the Fatah leadership. Attending for the DFLP leadership were Comrades Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, assistant secretary general of the DFLP; 'Isam 'Abd al-Latif; Mamduh Nawfal ['Umar Nawfal 'Abd-al-Rahim]; Fadi Salamah; and Jamil Hilal. The conferees discussed the political developments [words indistinct] on the basis of the intifadah [uprising] and the resolutions of the 19th session of the Palestine National Council.

The conferees reviewed the situation inside the occupied lands and the role and cadres of the Unified National Leadership of the intifadah. They stressed the importance of mobilizing and rallying all Palestinian, Arab, and international efforts and resources to escalate the intifadah and confront all forms of the escalating Zionist repression and terrorism to abort all maneuvers aimed at effecting a split in the ranks of our people or forming alternatives to the PLO.

On the basis of identical viewpoints on the PLO's current tasks, it has been agreed to pursue Palestinian peace efforts based on the Palestinian political initiative to score further victories for our people, repulse the occupation, establish the independent Palestinian state, impose further isolation on Israel, and gain further support and backing for the rights of our people. Within this framework, the conferees stressed full Palestinian support for the initiative of Comrade Shevardnadze on convening an effective international conference to be attended by the PLO on an equal footing with other parties. They also agreed on the importance of jointly confronting the next political developments on the basis of enhancing the national Palestinian unity within the framework of the PLO and its bodies.

The conferees stressed the need to pursue efforts to convene the five-sided meeting of the Arab countries that are concerned with the international peace conference. They also agreed on the need to continue work to consolidate Arab solidarity at this particular stage, convene the Arab summit to support the Palestinian peace intiative and our people's cause, and rally Arab efforts to expedite the convocation of the international conference. They also stressed the need to continue work to implement the Algiers Arab summit resolutions supporting the Palestinian popular intifadah.

It was agreed to continue meetings between the leaderships, cadres, and the rank and file of Fatah and the DFLP within all frameworks [words indistinct] to enhance the national Palestinian unity [as heard] of our people, headed by the right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Egypt

Further Reportage on Mubarak's Visit to U.S.

Further on Meeting Congressmen

NC0504104989 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Following President Mubarak's meeting yesterday with the members of the Senate foreign relations committee, Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, chairman of the State Public Information Service, stated that the meeting lasted for 90 minutes and focused on peace in the Middle East and regional developments.

At the beginning of the meeting, President Mubarak asserted that despite numerous changes and developments over the past years, the Egyptian strategic option for peace remained unchanged. The president stressed that a viable peace must be just, comprehensive, and based on the land-for-peace principle.

President Mubarak explained recent developments in the Arab arena to the senators, stating that they have culminated in an all-embracing front for peace which includes the PLO, among other parties. This front, the president said, is ready for negotiations according to the principles of international law and legitimacy and within the framework of the international peace conference.

Responding to a question raised by a senator on the Palestinian intifadah [uprising], the president reiterated that the intifadah is the popular expression of the people's rejection of Israel's occupation and its continued denial of the Palestinian people's rights. He said nobody can stop this intifadah.

The president underlined the importance of the PLO and the need to deal with it, pointing out that it is both dangerous and wrong to try to find substitutes for it. In this regard, the president noted the moderation of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

The president emphasized the importance of Jordan's role in the peace process, hoping that King Husayn's upcoming visit to the United States will be successful.

To a question on a possible meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, President Mubarak pointed out that he had declared earlier that he was ready to hold such a meeting, if this would help push the peace process forward. However, he added, successive Israeli remarks, which reflected Israel's rejection of the idea of the international conference and its refusal to withdraw from the occupied territories or even to allow such a meeting to reflect positively on the peace process, make such a meeting futile.

To a question on the truth behind reports and speculation on Iraq's intention to manufacture nuclear weapons, President Mubarak asserted that Iraq has no intention to do so. He stressed that Egypt has been calling for making the Middle East free of various destructive weapons, nuclear and chemical alike.

In this respect, President Mubarak reiterated that rumors about Egypt's beginning to develop a chemical weapons plant are groundless.

Touching on the situation in Lebanon, President Mubarak expressed his regrets over the deteriorating situation there. He explained Egypt's fixed stand on the need to end foreign intervention in Lebanon. He said that embarking on the process of resolving the Palestinian issue will reflect positively on the Lebanese problem.

President Mubarak reiterated that the current historic opportunity to establish peace in the region must not be wasted. He stressed that we should not hesitate to holding the international peace conference by resorting to temporary formulas or suggestions that are unapplicable or unacceptable to certain parties. He noted that the international conference will constitute a (?psychological) umbrella that would allow the parties concerned to engage in direct negotiations. He added that the conference provides an acceptable starting point from which participants can consider the differences over certain points that might arise during direct negotiations among the parties concerned. Moreover, he added, this conference will not impose any solutions unacceptable to the parties concerned.

The meeting between President Mubarak and the senators was held in a friendly atmosphere, marked by cordiality and respect for Egypt's essential role in making peace and establishing stability and by appreciation for President Mubarak's wisdom, frankness, and positive and constructive efforts.

Speaks at New York Luncheon

NC0604035489 Cairo MENA in English 2040 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] New York, April 5 (MENA)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak today stressed that the Middle East conflict is one that deserves our utmost attention and concern, pointing out the strategic importance of this region to all countries.

He said that peace and stability in the Middle East have a direct bearing on the daily life of peoples everywhere. Hence we should spare no efforts in order to cement the structure of peace in that troubled area for the sake of all its inhabitants, he added.

President Mubarak was speaking at a luncheon banquet held in his honour by the Foreign Policy Association at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York.

Following is the text of President Mubarak's speech:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for your warm reception and kind introduction. I am happy to have this opportunity to share with you some thoughts on matters of common concern. And I am equally happy to see among you many friends who embody the spirit of this great nation. We have known Secretary Rogers for years as a man of principles who is dedicated to the promotion of peace and justice among nations.

Being in New York is a source of inspiration. The city is a world-renowned cultural center. It is also a melting pot for both people and ideas. It symbolizes interaction and interdependence among all nations.

Today, we are witnessing a new era in human history. It is the era of consolidating world peace. In the post-war period, leaders and political scientists tried to interpret the behavior of world powers in terms of the cold war and different theories of conflict, shifting from the balance of power to the balance of terror.

In recent years, people of goodwill and sound judgement have come to realize the futility of continuing the arms race. This logical conclusion, as we know, came about as a result of two factors. First, mankind became fearful of total destruction by sophisticated nuclear weapons. Second, every nation on earth, however strong and mighty, began to confront mounting economic problems due to excessive spending on defense. Of course this change did not take place suddenly. Rather it was a process that evolved gradually over the years.

Even before the end of the Second World War, a great American statesman, President Franklin Roosevelt, noted that "more than an end to war, we want an end to the beginnings to all wars."

This spirit of definite and mutual accommodation should not be confined to relations between superpowers or a certain continent. It ought to be a global phenomenon that enriches the lives of human beings everywhere.

Peace is indivisible. So are progress and prosperity. We are living in the age of interdependence. That is why we believe that Third World countries and the Non-Aligned Movement should take an active part in developing the notion of detente and laying down the foundation for the new era.

The fruits of this age, like its responsibilities and hazards, should be extended to regional conflicts as well.

We have seen some of these fruits lately in Afghanistan and southern Africa. At the same time, the guns have fallen silent in the Gulf after eight years of devastation and destruction.

The Middle East conflict is one that deserves our utmost attention and concern. I need not dwell on the strategic importance of this region to all countries. Peace and stability there have a direct bearing on the daily life of peoples everywhere. Hence, we should spare no effort in order to cement the structure of peace in that troubled area for the sake of all its inhabitants.

It has been suggested that the situation there is not ripe for a solution. Nothing can be further from the truth. In the past few years, several factors converged in favor of a prompt settlement to the conflict.

The Palestinian movement has raised the olive branch higher than ever and accepted all the requirements for peace. The vast majority of Arabs have reconciled themselves to the proposition that peace is the only road to a secure future. The realization of this fact by the Arab world is partly due to the successful implementation of the treaty of peace between Egypt and Israel. It has been further strengthened when Egypt and Israel were able to resolve the remaining differences by resorting to the rule of law as the final arbiter.

In this manner they were able to overcome all the problems they encountered peacefully. That demonstrated to all Arabs including the skeptics that peace works after all.

A few days before I came to Washington, I met with King Husayn of Jordan and PLO Chairman 'Arafat. It was our consensus that the peace process should be activated without delay for the good of all parties, including Israel. That view was shared also by other Arab leaders I contacted recently.

Furthermore, it reflects the feeling of most Israelis who are concerned over the future. Under these circumstances, it will be a grave mistake to let this opportunity slip by. Failure to move promptly does not mean only another missed opportunity. It is certain to constitute a serious and unjustified setback. As Secretary Vance once said, "the wheel of peace in the Middle East has a tendency to roll backwards if it does not roll forward." As we all know, he is a man of profound wisdom and vision. Unless we move promptly and courageously, the forces of rejection and extremism will gain the upper hand on both sides. This would mean radicalizing the region, at a time when men of good will are striving in order to introduce more stability and order throughout the region.

If we agree on the necessity for prompt movement towards peace, the question narrows down to the best approach to be used to achieve that goal. In our view, the parties should be brought to understand that there is no alternative to entering into direct negotiations within the framework of the international conference. This has been the position advocated by Israel for the past forty years. One fails to understand why any party would oppose this formula which can never nullify or violate the free will of all parties.

Ideas such as the improvement of the atmosphere in the occupied territories can be useful upon reaching agreement on starting the negotiations on a certain date. In the absence of that, it would be almost impossible to convince the Palestinians who are living under occupation to remain calm and quiet.

Similarly, the idea of holding elections in the occupied territory for the purpose of naming the representatives of the Palestinian people is both futile and unnecessary. This is so because we have already a Palestinian partner who is willing to negotiate without preconditions.

The basis for the negotiations are not difficult to agree upon. Basically, they are U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of "land for peace," security for all parties to the conflict, and the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination. Some Israelis seem to be apprehensive of the consequences of the application of the rights of return by the Palestinian people. But I am certain that a fair and reasonable solution can be worked out. Such matters should never obstruct the road to peace. The stakes are too high for all of us.

When the parties reach agreement on the final settlement, it can be implemented in stages. A transitional regime can be established in the West Bank and Gaza for a limited period in order to facilitate a peaceful and orderly transfer of authority. In the context of a comprehensive settlement, it would be feasible to agree on the elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. We already started to discuss this issue with the Israeli Government a year ago today for the purpose of exploring different aspects of this problem, which poses a serious threat to the very existence of all Middle Easterners.

Having said that, I would like to conclude my remarks by drawing your attention to the debt problem and the need for a global approach to its solution.

Most developing countries are suffering immensely from this problem that paralyzes all development efforts and hinders any growth. Unless both industrial and developing nations reach a just and fair solution to this problem in the coming few months, the prospects will be bleak for both creditors and debtors.

We are heartened by the fact that many world figures, including many high ranking Americans, have devised several formulas on how to deal with the problem. This awareness of the seriousness of the situation is the first step towards a fair solution. That remedy is badly needed for both small and middle-income countries of the developing world. No discrimination should be made between countries which are indebted to commercial institutions and those indebted to foreign governments.

Mr. Chairman, dear friends, in every trip I make to your great country, I go back with warm feelings and high hopes. The kind and friendly reception which we get everywhere makes us believe that our partnership in the pursuit of peace and prosperity will be a lasting feature of our age. Let us work for a better world for us and for generations to come.

Meets UN's Perez de Cuellar

NC0604085789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar yesterday evening. They discussed the results of Perez de Cuellar's recent consultations with the five permanent members of the Security Council on the possibility of convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Meets With Jewish Organizations

NC0604091389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0200 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] New York, 5 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed his appreciation for all sentiments he found expressed during his meetings with officials of the U.S. Administration, Congress, and senior political, economic, and information figures in the United States. In a statement he made during a meeting with representatives of Jewish organizations in the United States, he praised the deep understanding of and respect for the arduous Egyptian efforts to boost the peace process in the Middle East, to achieve stability in the region, and to attain economic and social development in the interests of the region's peoples.

A dialogue that lasted well over 1 hour took place, during which President Mubarak answered a number of questions that focused especially on a peaceful settlement and on current developments in the Middle East.

In response to a question on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's proposal to hold elections in the West Bank, President Mubarak stressed that the dangers inherent in this proposal are that it seeks to divide the Palestinians into two parties, one inside the occupied territory and the other outside; this is inconsistent with the reality of the existing unity among the Palestinian people. He also said that this proposal seeks to isolate the PLO or to replace it with alternative leadership, despite the fact that it represents the Palestinian people and is ruled by moderate, constructive, and positive elements. He noted in this regard the failure of all previous attempts to create alternative leadership. He praised Yasir 'Arafat's leadership and moderation, saying that the PLO has gone a long way in its serious approach toward a just peace under 'Arafat's leadership.

Asked about the U.S. role at the current stage, Mubarak pointed out that the administration of U.S. President George Bush understands all aspects of the issue and is capable of adopting an appropriate stand in playing its expected role as a partner in the peace process and in persuading Israel of the importance of expediting an international conference.

When asked about the possibility of his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, President Mubarak pointed out that he had previously proposed the idea of going to Israel if this would help achieve progress in the peace process. However, several Israeli statements were made demonstrating a negative rejectionist position on the idea of convening an international conference, the principle of land for peace and, consequently, such a meeting became pointless and useless.

President Mubarak pointed out that there has been a total change in the stands in the Middle East: after 40 years during which the Arabs persisted in raising the slogan of rejection while Israel called for negotiations and peaceful settlement, Israel has now adopted a stand rejecting all Arab peace overtures. He stressed that peace requires all parties to make sacrifices. All the Arabs, he said, have proven their deep and responsible readiness to start negotiations and reach a peaceful settlement. At this historic and important stage, it has become necessary for Israel to make courageous decisions that respond to the overwhelming call for peace and the comprehensive international leaning toward peace and settling differences and disputes through negotiations.

A Jewish sect representative commented by saying: "Israel is indeed in need of men like Al-Sadat and Mubarak."

Report on CNN Interview

NC0604103789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] New York, 5 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak emphasized that he refused to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in New York because of his preconditions, including his rejection of the international peace conference and the principle of land for peace.

On the circumstances under which elections could be held in the occupied territories, President Mubarak said: Ignoring the Palestinians who live outside the occupied territories will not solve the problem. Israel can choose some people who do not have links with the PLO, but I do not consider this a sound idea. I am confident that this idea will fail and will further complicate matters because we should not ignore the PLO. This will be a major mistake, and I do not want this mistake to be made.

In an interview with the U.S. CNN television network today, President Mubarak expressed the conviction that the Israeli people want peace, adding that they are aware that peace is extremely precious and worthy of any concession.

President Mubarak asked: Do you think that the Arabs are happy that Arab and Israeli blood is being shed? The Israelis and the Arabs are human beings.

Asked what he would like U.S. President George Bush to tell Yitzhaq Shamir, President Mubarak said: I wish he would explain to him that direct negotiations will follow the international conference and that the international conference would have no power to influence any party.

Concerning Egypt's relations with Syria, President Mubarak affirmed that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad believes that the peace treaty [between Egypt and Israel] is an obstacle between Egypt and Syria. However, President Mubarak added, this treaty has been accepted by the Egyptian people. President Mubarak stressed that President Hafiz al-Asad is a friend.

On the issue of Libya's acquisition of advanced aircraft from the Soviet Union, President Mubarak said that the Soviets know that al-Qadhdhafi will not use these aircraft. Perhaps the main objective behind the conclusion of the deal is to obtain hard currency, because while al-Qadhdhafi possessed the MiG-25 long-range bombers [as received], he has not used them.

Regarding the claims that Egypt possesses chemical weapons, President Mubarak reiterated that Egypt does not need such weapons. Egypt did not and will not think of using or producing these weapons, Presient Mubarak added. President Mubarak went on to say that Egypt signed a treaty against the use of these weapons in 1925 and that the claims started in the form of a press campaign in Israel.

President Mubarak said that the Egyptian people were disappointed by press reports about the freezing of $230 million of U.S. aid to Egypt. He stressed: The freeze will not force us toward any trend or to undertake any unwanted action.

Report on NBC Interview

NC0604142089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1216 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] New York, 6 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has stated that the situation in Egypt is good, particularly now that Egypt has regained its territories. He added that Egypt wants peace to prevail in the entire region, including Israel.

In an interview broadcast by NBC this morning, President Mubarak warned that peace cannot be established unless Israel returns the territories of Palestine.

The president was asked what he would like the U.S. Administration to tell Yitzhaq Shamir, who is visiting Washington at present. He said: I would like it to make him declare his acceptance of the land-for-peace principle.

With reference to his talks in Washington, the president said that he had the impression that the Bush administration is eager to establish peace through an international conference and that it believes in the land-for-peace principle.

In the interview, President Mubarak expressed the belief that the Bush administration is capable of moving faster than the former administration, adding that it is more understanding and better informed of the facts.

On Israel's rejection of the idea of an international conference, President Mubarak stated that this is merely a psychological matter. He noted that when Egypt embarked on the peace process, it agreed to direct negotiations; however, this does not mean that all other countries will accept this. He said that the late President Anwar al-Sadat had embarked on a daring step, breaking all the psychological barriers that had blocked the road to peace.

The president remarked that there have already been many peace initiatives and we do not need any more. All that is needed now is courage, he asserted, adding: We need to take a practical step, even half of what President al-Sadat did. He noted in this regard that Egypt has already taken many steps and that it is now Israel's turn to do the same.

The president concluded by declaring that there is a golden opportunity to resolve all our problems with Israel, and we have to seize it. He expressed the hope that the international conference will begin before the end of the year.

Departs New York 6 Apr

NC0604053189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0210 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] New York, 5 Apr (MENA)—President and Mrs Mubarak left Kennedy Airport in New York at 2200, New York time, at the conclusion of a 5-day visit to the United States.

Stops Over in London

NC0604111889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] London, 6 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak stopped over at Heathrow Airport this morning en route from the United States at the end of a 6-day visit during which he held talks with U.S. President George Bush and members of the U.S. Administration. He was received at Heathrow Airport by William Waldegrave, minister of state at the Commonwealth Foreign Office; Dr Muhammad Shakir, Egyptian ambassador to the United Kingdom; and members of the embassy staff.

Mubarak left London for Cairo after a 1-hour stopover. Mubarak and his accompanying delegation held talks with Waldegrave.

Daily Assails Shamir's Elections 'Ploy'

NC0604092489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has described the ploy of elections that Israeli Prime Minister Shamir is using. His claims that he is ready to hold elections in the occupied Arab territory so that the Palestinian people can choose representatives to participate in talks with his government over the future of the occupied territory deceive no one. In its commentary today, AL-AKHBAR says that the elections toy [as received] that Shamir is showing and focusing on at the outset of his current visit to the United States comes within the framework of his attempts to black out the Palestinian issue and entangle it in labyrinths. This ploy also conceals goals that Shamir wants to achieve under the cover of false democracy to mislead world public opinion.

The paper exposes the falseness of this ploy, saying that elections and their results under occupation cannot be reassuring by any international standard. This is because the basic condition for a clean election is an atmosphere of freedom, which is not available in any way in the occupied territory.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR noted the preconditions that Shamir sets for any future negotiations, foremost of which are the rejection of the principle of land for peace, insistence on holding onto the Jewish settlements in the Arab territory, and that the goal of any negotiations is a mere agreement on limited autonomy. AL-AKHBAR states that all these preconditions expose the reality of Shamir's intentions regarding the elections maneuver and his rejection of any genuine peace.

Libya

JANA Editor Denies Plan To Attack U.S. Targets

LD0504130189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1146 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Apr (JANA)—The Zionist enemy's radio said yesterday that the great Jamahiriyah has drawn up a plan to seek revenge against U.S. aircraft on the occasion of the 3d anniverary of the U.S. aggression against Libyan Arab soil. The U.S. television network CBS quoted U.S. intelligence sources as saying that Libya plans to attack U.S. targets in mid-April.

JANA's international affairs editor commented on these allegations and stated:

The Libyan Arab people, who are confronting the crusading Zionist onslaught waged against the Arab nation and who continue to expose the imperialist intentions and plots hatched by international Zionism and those who harbor it, understand very well the significance and aim of such lies and allegations, especially these days when the mask has been removed from the ugly face of Zionism in occupied Arab Palestine, following the escalation of the wide-ranging popular revolution against the Zionist enemy.

Also, the whole world has understood the true Zionist thinking, which is reflected in the terrorist practices implemented by the Zionist enemy against the Palestinian Arabs living inside Palestine and in the practices and schemes being hatched by the Zionist Mosad against the world's peoples—the latest of which was the bombing of the U.S. airliner over Scotland—in an attempt to discredit others.

JANA's international affairs editor added that the great Jamahiriyah stresses its commitment to our principled stances; we denounce terrorism in all its forms starting from state organized terrorism, warship terrorism, which was applied by the Reagan government and which harmed U.S. foreign policy, the hijacking of planes, and the unjustified kidnapping and killing of innocent people.

Once again we stress our condemnation of all kinds of violence, killings, and crimes against innocent families.

The editor stressed that a strong emphasis is put on these realities because we know very well the significance of these alleged lies, which we are accustomed to hearing every time the American and Western intelligence services, as well as the Zionist Mosad, embark on a new plot to carry out a hostile attack against the people's choices—among the people who reject the policy of imperialist dominance—to divert the world's attention from their despicable intentions.

The editor ended his comments saying that the great Jamahiriyah, which laid down the foundations for a free jamahiri society free from violence and based on the eternal human theories stipulated by the third international theory and the principles of the great green document on human rights in the jamahiri society, stresses its rejection of the policy of threats whose failure was proved when it was put into practice and that only man's civilized mind is capable of learning from past experiences, particularly those whose price was paid for with the blood of the people.

Statement on Burundi Deportation of Citizens

LD0504213489 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Apr (JANA)—The People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has issued the following statement: The People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation expresses astonishment at the decision of the Burundi Government to deport Libyan citizens working at the People's Bureau in Burundi and considers this decision unjustified.

The Libyan citizens in Burundi are present there for mutual economic, cultural, and political interests. These are legitimate activities agreed to in conformity with bilateral agreements.

The statement added that the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is eager to develop its relations with all friendly African states within the framework of mutual respect and noninterference in one another's choices.

On this basis, the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation considers the allegations against our citizens false and unfounded and rejects them. These allegations are the result of reactionary and colonialist pressures experienced by the party issuing them and it bears sole responsibility for that.

Sudan

54 Rebels Said Killed in Southern Kordofan

EA0504111589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Excerpt] The official spokesman of the Armed Forces has said that the valiant Armed Forces continue to confront the outlaws in the southern Kordofan Region. The [word indistinct] forces for the 2d time attacked groups of outlaws in the Jabal Kurungu area. They clashed with them in a fierce battle that continued from the early hours until midday yesterday, 3 April.

The outlaws attacked 'Umm (Sardif) from which the population was evacuated so that the Armed Forces are able to exert pressure on them in the Jabal Kurungu area, (Kaja), and (Bana).

Our valiant Armed Forces killed 54 of the outlaws, wounded many others, and captured large quantities of guns, rifles, mines, and ammunition. The outlaws were scattered and their remnants pursued. Our Armed Forces sacrificed 7 martyrs and 18 wounded while the friendly forces sacrificed 2 martyrs and 18 wounded along the road of sacrifice and loyalty to the homeland.

The official spokesman of the Armed Forces said our Armed Forces are enjoying high morale and will raise the slogan of victory or martyrdom until the extermination of the last scattered remnants of the outlaws. [passage omitted]

Rebels Say Jokau Army Commander, 24 Men Defect

EA0504094989 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Lieutenant Colonel Salim Said Muhyi al-Din, former commander of Jokau who has been held prisoner of war by SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces after the fall of Jokau, has decided to join the ranks of the SPLA with 24 other NCO's [noncommissioned officers] and men under his command who were also prisoners of war.

Lt Col Salim Said Muhyi al-Din gave 17 points which made them join the SPLA. Among the reasons they gave were the failure of Khartoum General Headquarters to recognize the presence of prisoners of war in the hands of the SPLA. The issue of the prisoners of war was never brought as one of the main problems in the Khartoum

General Headquarters' agenda. The General Headquarters in Khartoum does not give facts to the commanders in the war zone in regard to the prisoners of war.

In addition to the SPLA's hospitality given to the prisoners of war, and seeing their aims and objectives being realized indeed—that of creating the new Sudan—they have therefore decided on their own to join the SPLA on their own [word indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Rebels Report Ambush of 'Enemy' Food Convoy

EA0504190189 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Excerpt] An enemy convoy, which left Yei on 6th March 1989 with the hope of reinforcing their besieged, hungry, and demoralized troops in Kajo Kaji town, fell into a SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] ambush on 11 March, 65 miles from Yei on the Kajo Kaji-Yei road.

Our correspondent says that the enemy convoy was composed of 12 trucks loaded with food and reinforced with 2 tanks, and commanded by Captain Samuel (Songa). The battle lasted for 2 days, after which the enemy suffered heavy losses in both men and material. One tank and three trucks were badly destroyed. The enemy was forced to retreat towards Yei. Our correspondent added that during the retreat one Austin truck was destroyed by a land mine killing five enemy soldiers, and many others were seriously injured, among them Captain Samuel (Songa).

SPLA officers, noncommissioned officers, and men, under the operational command of Commander James Wani Igga, alternate member of SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]-SPLA political-military high command and zonal commander for central and western Equatoria, carried out the operations. [passage omitted]

UK Grants Aid for Relief Operations in South

EA0504194389 Khartoum SUNA in English 0913 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Apr (SUNA)—Britain will present a sum of five million pounds sterling as a grant to Sudan to assist in relief operations in the south to be delivered to the international organisations working in the field of relief, the daily "AL-AYYAM" of today reported. Two millions of the said sum will be given to the international [passage indistinct] UN organisations working in the field of relief, and the remaining million to the British voluntary societies working in Sudan.

Tunisia

Security Committee With Libya Meets 5 Apr

LD0504193589 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] The Tunisian-Libyan security committee met today under the chairmanship of Interior Minister Chedli Neffati and 'Izz al-Din al-Mushayri, secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice. Chedli Neffati poined out the role of the security committee, as well as the rest of topics to be examined, i.e., a review of the steps taken and a determination of the sphere of future work.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice insisted that the aim behind the meeting of the joint security committee is to draw up an executive program, reaffirming that the committee's duty is to work for the adoption of a unified program which would consolidate the two countries' efforts in security fields. Al-Mushayri pointed out that such work should be considered an important pillar in bolstering the two countries' unity and Maghreb and Arab unity in general.

Committee With Libya on Foreign Affairs Meets

LD0504192389 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] The Tunisian-Libyan joint committee for consultation on foreign affairs held its first ever meeting in Tunis this morning under the chairmanship of Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh, and Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison. Following the working session, Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi stated that this meeting falls within the periodic and continuous meetings between the Tunisian-Libyan ministerial committees in all fields to set up the highest possible point of consultation on all topics of foreign policy.

President Ben Ali Receives Libyan Official

LD0604132189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning received at the Republican Palace in Carthage Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison. The guest noted that he had the honor of meeting President Ben Ali and that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi had charged him with conveying to the head of state his congratulations on and feelings of happiness with the great victory and the popular unanimity he achieved during the presidential election.

He pointed out he had informed President Ben Ali of what the leader of the Libyan revolution had reaffirmed, that this unanimity is a support for the aims of 7 November and for the work that has been carried out by the head of state, particularly with regard to the bolstering of freedom and the strengthening of ties between the two fraternal countries and the building of the greater Arab Maghreb and the comprehensive Arab unity.

The talks were attended by the Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh, and the two countries' ambassadors.

Qatar

WAKH: PLO's Faruq Qaddumi Leaves Doha 6 Apr

JN0604105689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Doha, 6 Apr (WAKH)—PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi left Doha this morning after a 3-day visit to the State of Qatar. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

SPA: Oil Minister on OPEC, Prices

LD0504201689 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1825 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Apr (SPA)—Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning, has expressed his happiness at the spirit of friendship and solidarity which prevailed at the OPEC ministerial committee meeting held in Vienna at the end of March.

In a statement to SPA, he said the general adherence to a price ceiling and quotas which prevailed during the first quarter of this year, coupled with the clear demand for OPEC oil, has led to the improvement being witnessed today in the oil markets as well as to the increase in oil prices which previously had been continuously falling and caused great harm to OPEC member states.

Mr Hisham Nazir added that all OPEC member states feel today that adherence in the second quarter of this year is needed in order to not lose today's strong demand for oil in the market.

He added: "Although buyers are competing today to purchase the Kingdom's oil in an impressive number and much more than what its quota allows, the Kingdom will, however, continue to adhere to its quota so the oil market will continue to remain strong."

He added: "The ministers who met in Vienna have promised they will not do anything which might negatively influence prices until the agreement as a whole is reviewed this coming June."

United Arab Emirates

AL-FAJR Cited on 'Reservations' on Bush Remarks

JN0504163589 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Manama, April 5 (GNA)—[Passage omitted] A UAE newspaper today commented editorially on U.S. President Husni Mubarak and said Arabs and the PLO were justified in having reservations over the U.S. statement.

Abu Dhabi-based 'AL-FAJR' said "The Arabs and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have many reservations on President Bush's statements on the Palestinian issue except the call for Israel withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

The statement, it said "fails to provide classification to the leadership of the PLO on the term Palestinian political rights and (shows) the U.S. Administration has tightened conditions for the structure of the international conference for peace in the Middle East," AL-FAJR said.

"The U.S. prefers direct talks between the PLO and Israel in which all issues including the Palestinian problem will be discussed and this means the U.S. wants only to play a protocol role in the talks" it added. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Approves Opening Embassy in South Yemen

JN0504152889 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held its weekly meeting under His Highness Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, deputy prime minister. The council approved a Foreign Ministry letter to the effect of opening an Emirian Embassy in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and listing the financial appropriations in this regard in the ministry's budget. [passage omitted]

Minister Receives French, Indonesian Envoys

JN0504164989 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 5 (GNA)—UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah today received a letter from French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas dealing with Lebanon's crisis.

It was delivered to head of the minister's Foreign Affairs Department, Ya'qub al-Kindi, by French Ambassador Hubert Colin de Verdiere, who said France backed the Arab League committee, empowered to seek a solution to Lebanon's problem. He said France was contacting Lebanese parties to end the latest round of fighting.

Al-Kindi, meanwhile, received Indonesian Charge d'affaires Abdul Salam al- Ghani, who came to bid farewell at the end of his tenure in the UAE.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Receives Visiting Sudanese Official

JN0504184389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received brother Mirghani al-Nasri, member of the State Council in fraternal Sudan, at his office today.

Al-Nasri conveyed to the brother leader and president a message from his brother, Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council. The message deals with developments and situations in the Arab arena, foremost of which are developments in the Sudanese arena and the brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries in addition to issues of mutual concern.

During the meeting, the brother leader, president, and secretary general asserted our country's support for fraternal Sudan and efforts to bolster the march of its stability and national unity.

On his part, brother Mirghani al-Nasri expressed fraternal Sudan's appreciation for our country—leadership, goverment, and people—for its sincere brotherly stands toward fraternal Sudan. He praised the depth and strength of the historic, warm, brotherly relations between the two peoples in the two fraternal countries.

The meeting was attended by brother Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member; Shaykh Mahjub Ja'far, Sudanese education minister; members of the accompanying delegation; and brother Sayyid Ahmad al-Hardalu, Sudanese ambassador in Sanaa.

Al-Nasri Departs

JN0604155289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Brother Mirghani al-Nasri, member of the State Council in Sudan, and his delegation left Sanaa today following a 3-day visit to our country during which he met with President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and conveyed to him a message from his brother Ahmad al-Mirghani, head of the Sudanese State Council.

In a predeparture statement to SABA' news agency, brother Al-Nasri expressed extreme happiness with meeting the brother president. He said the talks during the meeting dealt with promoting bilateral relations in political, economic, and educational fields and that the talks also dealt with the recent political developments in Sudan. He said he briefed the brother president on all recent developments in Sudan and reassured him about the stand of the Sudanese people on these events.

The Sudanese State Council member added that during his meeting with the president he praised our people's support for the Sudanese people during the floods disasters. He said the brother president affirmed to him our people's full support for their brothers the Sudanese people to end the war in south Sudan and enhance efforts to achieve peace there.

Al-Nasri was seen off by Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member; Dr 'Abdallah Barakat, interior minister and Standing Committee member; Dr Muhammad 'Ali Muqbil, minister of health; officials; the representative for the president's office protocols; and Sayyid Ahmad al-Hardalu, Sudanese ambassador in Sanaa.

Paper Repeats Warning Against Israeli Aggression

JN0604082889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0520 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has asserted that Israel's present dilemma will further exacerbate as it engages in more terrorism and issues more "useless threats."

The paper says in today's editorial: The Zionist entity's policy of expansion and terrorism against the Arab nation will not achieve any results and its present dilemma will further exacerbate before the great Iraqi victory, the heroic Palestinian people, and the Arab nation's awakening and sure progress.

The paper draws world attention to the aims of Zionist statements and allegations, saying the international community must assume its full responsibility vis-a-vis such allegations.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Zionist propaganda media are waging rabid campaigns against Iraq to tarnish its victory in the war launched by Iran as well as the Palestinian Arab people's successes, and to also try to influence the course of the Iraq-Iran talks, which the Zionists hope would not make any progress on the path of lasting and comprehensive peace.

The paper notes: One of the reasons behind the continued unjust Zionist campaign against Iraq is the increasing international pressure on the Zionists to know what happened to the heavy water they received from Norway. For they are suspected of having used it in the production of nuclear warheads as part of their drive to possess means of destruction, including internationally banned weapons.

AL-JUMHURIYAH reiterates the strongly worded warning made by the Iraqi official spokesman yesterday that Iraq will reply forcefully to any Zionist aggression in the manner it deems suitable and that the Tel Aviv rulers must understand very well that any aggression against Iraq will not pass unpunished.

Executive Program Agreement Signed With GDR

JN0504163789 Baghdad INA in English 1520 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] baghdad, Apr. 5, INA—The Iraqi Scientific Research Council and the Sciences Academy in the German Democratic Republic today signed here an executive programme agreement for the years 1989-91.

The programme, the third to be signed between the two sides over the past five years, provides for exchange of scientists, expertise, research and specialized gatherings and organizing joint symposiums and scientific conferences.

Oil Minister Discusses Prices, Future Plans

JN0504163989 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr, 5, INA—Mr. 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi, oil minister said the oil sector in Iraq achieved a big qualitative turn in the field of oil production and export over the past two years.

Speaking at a press conference here today, Mr. al-Jalabi said his ministry had laid down plans for boosting its oil prospection, production, marketing and processing activities including the reoperation of oil installatiosn suspended due the Iranian aggression on Iraq.

Mr. al-Jalabi said the Oil Ministry experts big efforts for re-exporting Iraqi crude through Iraqi ports and outlets on the Arab Gulf.

The minister added that recent months witnessed the completion of a special terminal for exporting oil byproducts and that an Iraqi oil tanker was shipped with 17,000 tonnes of gas oil late last month from that port registering the first occasion in Iraq's history of exporting oil byproducts by tankers.

The Iraqi oil minister referred to stability of oil prices witnessed by international oil markets and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries folowing the recent agreement of equalizing quotas of oil production between Iraq and Iran and fixing production ceiling at 18.5 bpd [barrels per day] in addition to consecrating the official price of OPEC oil. This, he pointed out led to a tangible and clear improvement of oil prices due to the commitment to the quotas by the organization's member states and the positive cooperation shown by non-OPEC oil producers and increase of demand on oil.

More Teams Join Shatt al-'Arab Clearing Process

JN0604083589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—It was reported here today that two teams of engineers and technicians, equipped with machines, vehicles, and heavy cranes, will join other teams in a major drive, directed by President Saddam Husayn, to clear the Shatt al-'Arab.

Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah told AL-THAWRAH that the teams clearing the Shatt al-'Arab, within the campaign that began 26 February, are working in high competitive spirit to accomplish the process of lifting and floating sunken ships and other objects within an appropriate period.

The minister said that his ministry is placing all its resources and capabilities of equipment, machines, cranes, vehicles, and various types of diving equipment in the service of clearing the Shatt al-'Arab.

Peres Comments on Sale of Sukhoi-24's to Libya

TA0604100689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] In reaction to reports that Sukhoi-24 aircraft are being sold to Libya, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said that these are dangerous weapons that are being given to an irresponsible country involved in terrorism and violence. Mr Peres told our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen that Libya's range of irresponsibility has now been extended, and this must be opposed.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 6 April in a report by 'Ofra Yeshu'a-Lyth, Ran Dagoni, and 'Imanu'el Rosen on page A4 adds: "'Sukhoi-24 aircraft in Libya do not constitute a direct threat to Israel and should not arouse special concern here,' a senior military source said yesterday. 'Furthermore,' the military source said, 'the aircraft in the Libyan Air Force are of very poor quality and most of them are not in use; this Air Force should not cause concern here. The real significance of the report is that 15 such aircraft increase the potential threat to Israel from the air by virtue of the fact that during wartime they could be transferred to one of Israel's neighboring Arab countries, which could use them against Israel'."]

Arens on Sale to Libya

TA0604124589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Shim'on Vilnay at Building Institute conference in Tel Aviv on 6 April—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] We asked Mr Arens to comment on several current affairs issues: first, of course, on the report about the USSR supply of Sukhoi bombers to Libya. This is what Arens replied:

[Arens] According to reports in our possession, the USSR is about to supply Sukhoi-24 aircraft to Libya. It is a long-range, variable swept-wing bomber with high potential, a very good aircraft, and we are certainly surprised that there is a USSR readiness to supply such planes to Al-Qadhdhafi's regime in Libya. It does not add to stability in the Middle East and certainly does not advance the Middle East peace process.

[Vilnay] Could it harm the developing relations between the USSR and Israel?

[Arens] Relations between the USSR and Israel are still being developed and we wish to cultivate them, and I think that the USSR is also trying to do so. Of course, the supply of Sukhoi-24 aircraft to Libya does not help in this.

[Vilnay] Do you plan to carry out any sort of action on this issue?

[Arens] If we carry out any action we will first inform the appropriate party, and only afterward the media.

[Vilnay] Mr Foreign Minister, according to reports from Washington, the talks between Secretary of State James Baker and Prime Minister Shamir were encouraging. What impression do you have?

[Arens] I expected just that. I had good talks with the U.S. secretary of state, and there was no reason to believe that his talks with the prime minister would not be just as good, since we are talking about two friendly allied countries. It would therefore be very surprising if talks between our prime minister and the secretary of state or the U.S. President would not be good.

[Vilnay] Do you expect any development in the Bush-Shamir talks?

[Arens] I do not believe that these talks should be seen as a one-time event. They should be seen as part of a series of contacts and exchange of opinions between ourselves and the United States.

[Vilnay] Do you welcome the Apache helicopter deal?

[Arens] I have always advocated the use and procurement of helicopters for the Air Force, including the time when I was defense minister. The Apache is a good attack helicopter, perhaps the best in the world, and it should be in the Israel Defense Forces.

[Vilnay] Is there any direct link between yesterday's release of prisoners and the talks in Washington?

[Arens] I do not know of such a connection. [passage omitted]

Reported U.S. Ban on Scientists Termed Rubbish

TA0604075489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The British daily THE INDEPENDENT disclosed yesterday that the United States has decided to ban Israeli scientists from entering highly restricted nuclear weapons laboratories, after it appeared that they had access to classified information dealing with nuclear weapons. [passage omitted]

Arye Shomer, the director general of the Ministry of Science and Development, said in reaction to THE INDEPENDENT report that Israel has not received any report on such a U.S. decision. The report is pure rubbish, Shomer said.

Prospects for Shamir's U.S. Visit Analyzed

TA0404142989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Apr 89 p 13

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "The Shamir Visit—A Challenge to Peres"]

[Text] If current assessments by circles closely associated with the new U.S. Administration are anything to go by, then Likud activists at Ben-Gurion Airport can already prepare a hero's welcome for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir upon his return from Washington. He will again be able to rebut the commentators' gloomy forecasts of "a difficult trip," "pressure," or "an erosion in Congress." The "betting" over whether the visit will turn out to be a success or, heaven forbid, amount to a crisis with the administration has pushed to the sidelines the main mission of the Israeli prime minister, who at this time is leaving for important political talks: promoting the peace process and putting an end to the violence.

Israel's international standing—including, most importantly, the fostering of its relations with the United States—are a by-product and a secondary goal. As Shamir's chances of returning unscathed from the United States increase, so the chances for a real and more important peace diminish. One can already hear Shamir declaring in the VIP lounge: "They said this would be my toughest visit, but I encountered a most friendly administration. As for differences of opinion, these happen even with my best friends."

The previous administration's futile attempts to promote the peace hand-in-hand with Shamir indicate that any U.S. reaction that is more courteous than a public slap in the face is seen by Shamir and his aides as "routine differences of opinion among friends." They market this merchandise with remarkable success, thereby enlarging the circle of those who believe that there is not a dollar price attached to political rejectionism.

The team of advisers counseling the Bush-Baker duo have grown accustomed to this "trick" through their unsuccessful trips accompanying George Shultz. At the same time, it has also been stated that the new faces in the U.S. Administration are extremely practical men. Once they realize that the advisers who told them they do not stand a chance of squeezing any concessions from Shamir are right, they will know that pressure will therefore yield even less. They believe that while changes in U.S. public opinion toward Israel make it possible for the sleeves to be rolled up and the kid gloves to come off, this is still not the mandatory outcome of such a change. The argument over the degree of erosion in congressional support for Israel is immaterial at this point. The important thing is how the administration evaluates this erosion.

According to those associates, Bush and Baker believe that most congressmen have not yet matured to the point where they are ready to engage in a campaign of pressure against Israel. At best, they have lost their zeal for foiling weapons deals with the Arabs and for granting Israel relief from aid cuts whenever it is Israel's turn to become the sacrificial lamb on the altar of the Gramm-Rudman act.

Bush's associates insist that the President is not looking for a confrontation with the Jewish community at such an early stage of his first term. They report that Secretary of State James Baker is certainly ogling the Presidency, when the time comes for Bush to move out, and that he realizes that being branded an enemy of Israel—regardless of the criticism to which Israel is currently being subjected—will not serve as an electoral asset to any U.S. politician. Although the Jewish lobby is no longer as powerful as it used to be, it is still ten times stronger than the Arab lobby.

The notes of criticism that could be detected here and there in the Prime Minister's Conference on Jewish Solidarity have not gone unnoticed by observers in the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, but even they assert that this does not form a firm enough basis for the incorporation of the Jewish community in an American pressure campaign against Israel. All this leads the administration to hand Shamir the asset he desires more than anything else: time. In their meeting with Jewish leaders, Bush and Baker said they will grant Shamir 6 to 12 months to find Palestinian representatives for talks on a "broad" autonomy, after which they will revive the discussion of the notion of an international conference. Given a choice between 6 and 12 months, there is no doubt which Shamir will prefer.

The Americans believe that during that period, the intifadah [uprising] will continue to exert pressure on public opinion both in Israel and in the United States, perhaps even on other Jewish diasporas. Their motto is: "Conditions must be given time to ripen." The prime minister has countered this with his eternal vision that, either way, in the long run we are all dead.

In private conversations, the Americans admit that peace cannot be more important for the United States than for Israel. Yet pressure is one thing, the public's prerogative quite another. The President is obligated by force of American tradition to state as much on the White House lawn for the benefit of Shamir and the Israeli television audience, just so that no one takes this to mean that the U.S. President believes the Israeli prime minister does not attribute sufficient importance to peace. It would not be a bad idea at all for the U.S. President to say exactly what he thinks about Shamir's interpretation of Resolution 242 or about how this corresponds to the Camp David accords. A hearty smile rather than an honest declaration will not only contribute nothing toward peace, it will actually sabotage it.

In Israel on the morning after Shamir's return there will be one man who will have to make it very clear whether he regards power as more important than peace. This one man is Shim'on Peres, since his Siamese twin in the Alignment leadership, Yitzhaq Rabin, has officially endorsed the Likud's platform by presenting his "phased plan," which is tantamount to a verbatim repetition of the Camp David accords, including the timetable stipulated in them. In the not-too-distant past, his colleagues contended that there was no justification for a crisis against the backdrop of arguments over procedural matters (the international conference).

Now the Americans have pushed the substantive issue (territories for peace) to the forefront, anticipating the Alignment and thereby rendering all its future excuses null and void. If Peres again decides to waive his personal aspirations and desires in favor of Rabin's, he will be a prime accessory to letting the chance of peaceful negotiations with the Palestinians slip away once more. When he left on a peace mission as prime minister, Peres knew that the real battle over peace was still waiting for him at home. What a pity that Shamir could leave on a campaign against peace initiatives without fearing that someone back home might demand an explanation.

U.S. Urged Not To Expect Government To Fall

TA0504125089 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Apr 89 p A14

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "The 'Delicate' Questions of the Administration"]

[Text] Preparing for Shamir's visit to the United States, the Americans wanted to find out what would happen in Israel if the prime minister returns "with no results." It is unclear what is behind this term, which lately has been preoccupying Alignment members aspiring to destabilize the government, and personnel of the American Embassy.

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, who misses no opportunity to pose as a policymaker and not just as someone who gets his publicity out of debating with gas and oil companies, saw fit to declare on the eve of Prime Minister Shamir's departure that "if Shamir does not reach an understanding with the United States, the Labor Party would probably not be able to participate in the government." But Shahal—the designated talker, whose close friends wonder why he is sharing his thoughts with the media and not with his party's establishment or the Inner Cabinet, of which he is a member—is not the man preoccupying American Embassy personnel.

Incidentally, what sort of understanding should Shamir reach with the Americans to prevent Shahal from recommending a withdrawal from the government or establishing a narrow-based government to replace it (following a visit he paid with Peres to the Vizhnitz [Jewish ultraorthodox sect] spiritual leader)? After all, Shamir has adopted the main principles of the plan of Yitzhaq Rabin, Shahal's colleague. Are these principles not accepted by the energy minister?

With all due respect, however, the Americans are not interested in Shahal's opinions at the moment. More interesting for them now, it seems, is the question of whether the Labor Party has the option of destabilizing Shamir's government and setting up another. The Americans seek the answer from those who could aid Labor to achieve this end: namely, the religious parties.

In their own delicate way, the American Embassy people went looking for trends among the religious by holding "get-acquainted meetings" with the new ministers. They posed questions such as: What would happen if Shamir returns from the United States "with no results?" Could a "revolution" in the Israeli administration be possible? Such information is important for Washington policymakers. If Shamir's position as prime minister is stable and there is no opposition to replace him, Washington would have to treat him with patience and understanding—which would not be the case if he were not as stable and were there a real threat of the government being overthrown.

It is hard to say whether American Embassy officials received the impression that this government's days are numbered. In a conversation with Rabbi Moshe Ze'ev Feldman, head of the Agudat Yisra'el list, the above question was asked: Could there be a "revolution" in the Cabinet if Shamir returns "with no results." Rabbi Feldman's answer was disappointing or surprising: Forget it, he said, Shamir will be prime minister for the next 4 years!

Several days later Ambassador William Brown himself visited Interior Minister Rabbi Arye Der'i of SHAS [Torah Observing Sepharadim]—undoubtedly a major element to take into account when considering an Israeli "revolution"—wanting to hear his "private" opinion of the prime minister's mission and its results. The ambassador received no clear answer from this meeting as well. Der'i's answer was that Shamir is on a "mission for all of us" and that no "private" opinions could be maintained. The ambassador was obliged to hear advice for President Bush: True friendship is discovered in times of stress; the PLO would never have made it had it not been for the United States opening the "gate to the world" for it (based on a saying from the Hebrew sages the rabbi quoted to the ambassador); therefore, President Bush should not press the prime minister and not expect too much of him.

And what if, and so on? The ambassador squeezed in the delicate question. "Mr Shamir will solve all the problems...in any case, I want you to know that there is no room for private opinions on this matter. The government's policy is in accordance with what we in SHAS think," said Rabbi Der'i.

The National Religious Party [NRP] has not been graced with a similar visit. In view of the "introductory talks" with the Aguda and SHAS people, perhaps the NRP is no longer that important. If, however, the U.S. Embassy is curious to know where the NRP stands, party leader Professor Sciaki has made it clear. On the eve of the prime minister's departure, the NRP adopted a resolution supporting the prime minister on his mission. Minister Sciaki came down to the airport to advise him that "despite our past misunderstandings (regarding only partially implemented commitments), I want you to know that we in the NRP are united behind you on your important mission."

All the above, as well as the fact that Yitzhaq Rabin sent Shamir off with the assessment that no crisis was forthcoming, and that hundreds of the Labor Party's "center (hawkish) stream" stood up to support the Rabin plan—which Shamir has accepted in principle—all this may perhaps prompt the administration—and first and foremost Bush and Baker—to reconsider whether their assessments have not been too far-reaching.

There is no doubt that the increasingly loud voices in U.S. Jewish circles favoring a dialogue with the PLO, which are supported by intellectuals and even by several Israel Defense Forces generals, were the ones that encouraged the administration to step up the dialogue with the PLO. It is obvious that anyone embarking on that voyage intends to lead the process to the implementation of the PLO demand for two states "coexisting in peace." The U.S. politicians have been increasingly less wary of openly identifying with PLO supporters. Apparently this is an issue over which neither Bush nor Baker will be able to bend the arm of Shamir who says boldly and assertively: No to the PLO and no to a Palestinian state. This is the rock upon which the American policy is liable to crash.

If the U.S. Embassy personnel are capable of correctly reading the Israeli political map, then on the eve of the talks in Washington Bush and Baker realize it is Yitzhaq Shamir against whom they will be forced to wage their war, and that they cannot build their hopes on "coups" in Israel, even if the prime minister returns "without results."

On the other hand, perhaps this very realization may produce positive results capable of propelling the peace process forward.

Caution Urged on Baker View of Shamir Talks

TA0604134789 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 6 Apr 89 p 1

[Commentary by Washington correspondent Yo'el Esteron: "Embraces on the One Hand, Pressure on the Other"]

[Text] One should not be overly impressed by James Baker's feeling of "encouragement" following his first meeting with Yitzhaq Shamir. The real point, however, lies in the second part of his statement, in which Baker emphasized the need for further talks. This is the well-known embrace-and-pressure Baker tactic that Shamir will yet come to know. In the wake of Bush's unsubtle hint on the eve of Shamir's visit about the need "to put an end to the occupation," Bush and Baker are now looking for an Archemedean fulcrum before rolling on the ball.

To that end they must give a "semblance of progress" to the visit, not just to satisfy Shamir and dispel his suspicions about the new administration, but also to be able to sell these ideas to the other side. After all, Bush and Baker cannot call Shamir's proposal a warmed-up autonomy soup dating from the days of the elderly Dr Yosef Burg and at the same time try and sell the Palestinians a fresh dish. The joint teams, which have already started work, are nothing but a U.S. attempt to "improve" Shamir's proposals and make them more attractive to the skeptical Palestinian customer.

Erez Discusses 'Political Issues' With Notables

TA0204110089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Brigadier General Shay Erez, the head of the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration, met a group of Arab notables from Tulkarm and Qalqilyah. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that members of all political movements in the region participated in the meeting, including activists belonging to the popular committees, Fatah, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and the communists. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that political issues were discussed, and that the participants stressed their commitment to the PLO.

Erez and the Arab notables also talked about elections as part of the political process.

Further on Meetings

JN0204184489 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria today met with approximately 20 notables from Tulkarm and Qalqilyah. More details from our correspondent Ibrahim Shahid.

[Begin recording] [Shahid] Within the framework of meetings called by head of the Civil Administration Brigadier Shay Erez, this morning he met at the Civil Administration's headquarters in Tulkarm with 20-odd figures from Tulkarm and Qalqilyah including lawyers, doctors, industrialists, and businessmen—personalities from across the poltitical spectrum; pro-Fatah, Democratic Front, Popular Front, and Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] as well as Communist personalities and activists belonging to the popular committees. [passage omitted]

[Shahid] Lawyer Mazin al-Jayyusi, good evening.

[Al-Jayyusi] Welcome.

[Shahid] You were one of those who met today with the head of the Civil Administration.

[Al-Jayyusi] That is correct.

[Shahid] Would you sum up the meeting for us?

[Jayyusi] We told him that the PLO is the representative of this oppressed people. All the world, including Israel, must talk to the PLO. Not only do I call for a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders, but I also call for recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people to be set forth by the PLO at the negotiating table. Many of the brothers spoke. I think all of them declared that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of this people.

[Shahid] This is on the political level. Did you discuss topics of particular interest to the districts of Tulkarm and Qalqilyah?

[Al-Jayyusi] When Mr Erez said that he was there to talk about everyday concerns, I immediately responded that we have no such problems. We are an oppressed and aggrieved people with yearnings and ambitions—a people who have sacrificed their sons. What must be addressed is our agony rather than economic concerns. On the contrary, we must address our dignity, rights, and honor, etc. I do not want to dwell on such a subject.

[Shahid] Lawyer Mazin al-Jayyusi, thank you.

[Al-Jayyusi] Thank you. [end recording]

Erez Meets Bethlehem Arabs

TA0504184289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] The head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria, Brigadier General Shay Erez, met this afternoon with 15 Palestinians from the Bethlehem area. A Voice of Israel reporter says that people from all political factions, including PLO and Jordanian supporters, took part. The meeting was specifically called to discuss local issues, but political matters, including proposed municipal elections, were also touched on.

Sinyurah: Meetings With Israelis 'Important'

TA0404154189 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 3 Apr 89 p 16

[Interview with Hanna Sinyurah, AL-FAJR editor in chief, by Khalil Tuma—date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Q: Meetings with Israelis have been criticized recently by some Palestinians. What are the "red lines" for such meetings? Are they profitable?

A: Meetings with Israelis are an important means of clarifying intentions and positions. The Palestine National Council has taken resolutions to encourage such meetings and at the same time set the basis and guidelines. This policy, encouraged by the PLO, has benefited the Palestinian cause. There is now better understanding of Palestinian intentions, and as a result of Israeli Knesset legislation to prevent such meetings with the PLO it has reflected negatively on Israeli credibility.

"Red lines" should be observed in order to prevent misinterpretation of such meetings, especially during the period just before Shamir's trip to Washington, when the Israeli government wants to create the illusion of a local Palestinian interlocutor in place of the PLO.

Q: France is to receive 'Arafat this year. What effects will that have on the peace process and the European role?

A: The coming meeting between President Mitterrand and 'Arafat in Paris will be yet another indicator to Israeli policymakers that they are isolating themselves from the international consensus. This meeting on the European level is as important as the start of the PLO-U.S. dialogue. It will shorten the period left before the start of a fruitful dialogue between the two enemies, the PLO and the Israeli government. It will upgrade relations between the European community and the PLO, and it will enhance the Palestinian peace campaign and demonstrate to Palestinians under occupation shifts in European attitudes.

Q: Do you see any just solution to the Palestinian problem in the near future?

A: The one who observes developments in the past 16 months, the period related with the Intifadah [uprising], can see immense progress on many levels. The Palestinian position as articulated by the PLO is clear; it calls for a two-state solution. The Arab World's indifference in face of mounting internal problems has been reversed and support has reached new heights. The international community upgraded the Palestinian issue, putting it back on the top of its agenda. Achievements are mounting up rapidly, like the dialogue between the PLO and the U.S.A.

Better relations with all of Europe are coming. Canada is officially opening a dialogue with the PLO. 'Arafat is received by the Council of Europe, Greece, Spain and France. President Mitterrand announces an official invitation for 'Arafat to the Elysee. Other indications are the visit that Shevardnadze just carried out in the region, the State Department Human Rights Report on the Occupied Territories, Secretary James Baker and the Bush administration's new round of talks with all parties to the conflict. These are new milestones on the road to a political process. The status quo is nonexistent, the fight today is on what form of settlement will be achieved, not on whether it will be achieved.

Gaza Official Discusses Mosque Reopening

TA0404165689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Report by Asaf Ashkenazi]

[Text] Brigadier General Arye Ramot, head of the Gaza Strip Civil Administration, met today with Islamic clerics from the Gaza Strip to discuss possible ways to prevent friction between the army and the residents. The mosques that were recently closed down will be reopened before the month of Ramadan. It was further decided that the loudspeaker systems that had been removed from some mosques will be replaced. The clerics promised that the loudspeakers would not be used for incitement.

Gen Ramot held two other meetings today. The first was with Arab journalists from the Gaza Strip. Ramot promised that their press cards would be honored and that the authorities will accord appropriate attention to any problem that may arise.

At another meeting with physicians from the Gaza Strip, Gen Ramot and his interlocutors discussed possibilities for improvement in the local health system. The Civil Administration has decided to allow local residents to contribute funds toward the improvement of the medical facilities in the Gaza Strip.

Rabin Speaks to Gaza Students on Conference

TA0504191789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told girl students in Gaza that no peace arrangement was ever reached in an international conference. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that, in a meeting with students at the teachers seminar in Gaza, Minister Rabin was asked about the peace process and the situation in the Gaza Strip. The students complained about the fact that the schools are closed, about the curfews, and about the plight of the locals. Minister Rabin replied that just as Israel and Egypt understood that wars would not end the conflict, the same is true for the Palestinians. He noted that the defense establishment, too, regrets the use of curfews and blockades, and expressed the hope that in the future there would be no reason to employ these measures.

Likud Enjoys 10 Percent Advantage Over Labor

TA3103131689 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 31 Mar 89 p 1

[Hanokh and Rafi Smith poll for DAVAR]

[Text] Some 5 months after the Knesset elections, there is a 10 percent gap between public support for the Likud and that for the Labor Party. In contrast to a 4 percent increase in support for the right wing (support for the Likud went up 3 percent), there has been a drop of some 2 percent in support for the left wing (Labor Party support dropped some 4 percent), and a 3 percent drop for the religious bloc, compared to the latest Knesset election results.

The public opinion poll carried out in the last week of March encompassed some 1,100 people who were interviewed personally. The poll was based on a representative sample of the adult Jewish population (including kibbutzim, moshavim, and Judaea and Samaria settlements). The following are the responses to the question: "For which party would you vote were Knesset elections held today?"

(the results are in percentages—Jews only):

	Poll results March 1989	Election Results November 1988
Likud	37	34
Labor	27	31.5
Torah Observing Sephardim	4	5
National Religious Party	4	4.5
Agudat Yisra'el	3	5
Degel Hatora	2	1.5
Citizens Rights Movement	7	4
United Workers Party	2.5	2
Center-Shinuy	1.5	2
Tehiya	3.5	3.5
Tzomet	2.5	2 plus
Moledet	2	2 plus
Other	0.5	2
Undecided	3	-

DAVAR's party affairs correspondent 'Aliza Wallach points out that the interviews for the survey were carried out shortly after the local elections in which the Likud's strength increased. It is possible that the feeling resulting from the Likud's increased strength also influenced the interviewees' answers on the election results.

Poll Shows Rabin Most Highly Regarded Minister

TA0404143689 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] According to a public opinion survey, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is the most highly regarded senior Cabinet minister.

In a poll conducted by the Smith Institute, exclusively for DAVAR on the Unity Government's "100 days' anniversary" (in the third week of March), less than one third of the respondents thought highly of the government in general.

The poll included 1,100 men and women who were a representative sample of the adult Jewish population (including agricultural centers and Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.) The interviewees were asked: "In your opinion, how do the following persons carry out their jobs?"

	Percent of people whose estimate was very good or good	
	March 1989 Poll	June 1988 Poll
Yitzhaq Shamir	56	48
Shim'on Peres	46	46
Moshe Arens	60	*
Yitzhaq Rabin	63	57
Ari'el Sharon	38	41

* concerning Moshe Arens: was not polled in June 1988.

The following were the findings in reply to the question: "Is the government successful in dealing with the following issues?":

	The percent who said it is successful:	
	March 1989 Poll	June 1988 Poll
Economic sphere	31	39
Social sphere	25	28
Security matters	38	39
Foreign affairs	43	41
Your general opinion of the government	30	25

In comparison with the August [as published] 1988 findings, the assessment of "your general opinion of the government" rose slightly from 25 percent in August 1988 to 30 percent in March 1989. While in August 1988 only 39 percent of the Likud-supporting respondents gave a positive assessment, their percent in the March 1989 poll reached 64 percent. (No noticeable changes occurred among the Alignment supporters; the percentage rose from 16 to 19.)

In any event, the general grade the government received in this poll is low when compared with the results of polls conducted in the past.

Remark: With regard to all the above-mentioned polls, the statistical error is plus/minus 3 percent. The polls were conducted on a personal basis among only the Jewish population.

Soviet Jewish Immigration Confirming Forecasts

TA3103162989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Some 4,035 Jews left the Soviet Union this month, which constitutes an increase of over 200 percent compared with the same period last year. Some 459 of them, or over 11 percent, came to Israel. This was reported by Uri Gordon, chairman of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department. About 9,650 Jews have been allowed to leave the Soviet Union since the beginning of 1989, four times the number during the same period last year.

According to Gordon, this confirms forecasts that 50,000 Jews will emigrate from the Soviet Union this year. He called for increased efforts to prevent dropouts.

Fock: Hungary Wants Greater Economic Cooperation

TA2903124589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Mar 89 p 2

[Report by Eytan Avri'el]

[Text] "We will conduct business as though we were capitalists, and will cooperate like socialists," said Finance Minister Shim'on Peres to Jeno Fock, the former Hungarian prime minister heading an economic delegation currently visiting Israel.

Fock described the economic and political changes that are currently taking place in Hungary. He said that, even though his country does not need credit terms, it nevertheless wants to foster economic cooperation with Israel, particularly in high tech.

El Al Direct Flights to Warsaw Inaugurated

TA2903123789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Mar 89 p 4

[Report by aviation affairs correspondent Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Excerpt] A regular El Al flight line to Poland was inaugurated yesterday. It has been learned that only 55 passengers departed for Warsaw yesterday on the first such flight. They flew on board a Boeing-757, which can normally carry three times as many passengers.

The regular flight to Poland, El Al 563, took off from Ben-Gurion Airport at 0542 yesterday morning. Lot, the Polish national airline, is expected to make its first regularly scheduled flight to Israel tomorrow. The cost of the group fare ticket is $532. [passage omitted]

Saudis To Finance Clergymen in Arab Locations

TA0104194989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] The Islamic World Society, a Saudi organization for the dissemination and strengthening of Islam in the world, will this year finance the expedition of preachers and muezzins during the month of Ramadan to mosques in Arab locations in Israel where there are no clergymen. Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, chairman of the Committee of Arab Local Councils, told our correspondent Victor Nahmias that these will include some 50 preachers, graduates of Islamic colleges in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. The campaign was initiated by the Saudi organization following a brief, albeit successful, similar attempt last year.

Baraq on War With Syria, Iraqi Nuclear Threat
TA0204133989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Report by military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Addressing military correspondents today, Major General Ehud Baraq, deputy chief of staff, said that the main challenges in 1989 will continue to be terror attacks from Lebanon, the sea, and from Israel's other borders, as well as the danger of an all-out war.

Gen Baraq said: Syria is constantly strengthening itself. The Syrian Air Force may this year make the MiG-29's operational and incorporate Sukhoy-24's. The Syrian surface-to-air missile and armor deployment has increased. It is developing its chemical warfare capabilities and its surface-to-surface missile deployment, including missiles with chemical warheads. Baraq reported that the Syrians are training continuously, and especially drilling in offense-oriented formations.

[Begin Baraq recording] From a political standpoint, Syria still sees its goal as achieving strategic parity with Israel. Syria is relatively isolated in the Arab world. It is suffering economic hardships and having a hard time attaining its aims in Lebanon. Syria is faced with an international arena that prefers negotiations to the exercise of force. Nevertheless, in our estimate, Syria has not deviated from its basic policy, which strives toward an armed solution to the Middle East crisis, or at the very least, toward a solution enforced by Syria from a position of military superiority, even if the actual use of force is not required. Military power, and especially an offensive military capability, are the necessary components of such a policy, and Syria is gradually developing them. We do not estimate that an all-out war with Syria is likely this year. [end recording]

Another long-term potential danger that should be monitored is the possibility of the formation of a coalition led by Syrian on the eastern front. The Iraqi forces that have been evacuated from Iran may be part of such a coalition. This is not an immediate danger, but must be taken into account in the long run. Baraq asserted that the Iraqis have not abandoned their intention to achieve a nuclear capability in the future. Baraq estimated that there is at least some truth in all the media reports.

Baraq said that the Israeli army believes that attempts will be made to keep the violence in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip at its present level. Baraq fears that extremist Palestinian elements may even bring about an escalation in the violence by introducing firearms.

Baraq added that the Israeli army's work plan for 1989 is characterized by budgetary constraints and by the costs of the intifadah [uprising] that are not covered. Baraq said that in May the Israeli army will ask the government to cover these expenditures.

The deputy chief of staff reported that soldiers will serve between 42 and 44 days of reserve duty each year, while officers will have to serve 51 days.

India Lifts Restrictions on Tourist Visas
TA3003115489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The restrictions imposed on granting visas to Israeli tourists wishing to visit India have been lifted, a senior Indian Foreign Ministry official told the Israeli diplomatic representative in Bombay.

The visas will be granted for periods up to 3 months. Israeli citizens will be able to receive visas within 2 to 3 days at any Indian Consulate. Up to now, the Indians raised many difficulties in granting visas to Israelis.

Sorrow Voiced on Canadian Upgrade of PLO Ties
TA3103163589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] The Canadian ambassador to Israel was summoned to the Foreign Ministry today in the wake of Ottawa's decision to upgrade the level of the PLO representation on Canadian soil. Alon Li'el, spokesman of the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, expressed sorrow at having a friend like Canada change its policy in the region, saying that the move was bad news as far as the peace process is concerned. This is reported by our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

Peres, Rabin To Cancel Lavi Alternatives Budget
TA2903142189 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 29 Mar 89 p 5

[Report by Tamir Shefer]

[Excerpt] In deliberations on the 1989 budget, Finance Minister Shim'on Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin have agreed to cancel the $100 million earmarked annually to the defense industries for the development of alternatives to the Lavi. That sum had been allocated to the defense industries, especially the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI], by virtue of a Cabinet resolution dated 30 August 1987, 1 day after the termination of the Lavi project. The money was meant to permit the IAI and the defense industries to continue to develop technologies and alternatives for the Israel Defense Forces. [passage omitted]

Updated Data on Detentions Reported
TA0604113689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Apr 89 p 2

[Report by Dan Sagir]

[Text] The following data pertains to the number of people arrested for different crimes relating to the intifadah [uprising]. At the end of March and before yesterday's release, 6,574 people had been arrested, 720 had stood trial, and 901 detainees were awaiting trial.

The number of people detained without trial (administrative detainees) stood at 1,126, of which 106 were released yesterday; the number of people under detention until completion of legal proceedings stood at 3,827. The number of detainees released yesterday was 465 (224 from Gaza and 241 from Judaea and Samaria). Following yesterday's release, the number of detainees stands at 6,109.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Arab Sentenced to 17 Years

TA0504120589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] The Haifa District Court has sentenced Nazareth inhabitant Husayn Mu'ad to 17 years in prison after he was convicted of attempting to kidnap and murder a soldier 2 years ago. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the defendant and another assailant gave reserves soldier Yosef Levi from Kibbutz Usha a lift. At some point, they attacked the soldier, snatched his weapon, and tried to kill him. The soldier fought his assailants, managed to escape, and was subsequently hospitalized with injuries. The second assailant fled to Jordan.

Soldier Sentenced to 28 Days

TA0504183989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Private 'Amit Levenhof was sentenced to 28 days in jail for refusing to serve in Hebron. Levenhof, a standing army soldier, had been among the organizers of 12th graders who informed the defense minister approximately 1 year ago that they would refuse to serve in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Levenhof's father, Carlos, a reservist, was discharged from prison a week ago after serving a 35-day term on similar charges.

Since the outbreak of the uprising, 63 reservists and 7 standing army soldiers have refused to serve in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Soldier Injured by Stone

TA0504203389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] A soldier was injured on the face in Khan Yunus this evening when stones were thrown at an Israeli army vehicle on patrol. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the soldier was taken to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon.

More on 5 Apr Incidents

TA0604115489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Apr 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In the West Bank yesterday, soldiers shot and wounded a 25-year-old man in Nabulus, during an altercation which broke out after soldiers gave orders to clear away a burning tyre. In one neighbourhood, a group of masked and uniformed youths carrying hatchets and clubs staged a military-style march, to the cheers of onlookers.

A second Palestinian was reported wounded in clashes at Dhannabah near Tulkarm.

A 13-year-old boy from the Balatah refugee camp was wounded near neighbouring 'Awarta. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] said he was hit by a ricocheting bullet when troops on patrol opened fire after they were stoned. Palestinians said settlers fired after their car was attacked. [passage omitted]

[In a report on page 7, Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 6 April notes that "according to Arab sources, six local inhabitants were wounded in disturbances in the Gaza Strip yesterday."]

Arab Dies of Wounds

TA0604130389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] A resident of Bethlehem District village of Ta'amirah died today in Al-Muqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem. The man, Salim Isma'il Mubarak, 26, participated in disturbances in Bethlehem on Land Day [30 March] and was shot in the head by Israel Defense Forces soldiers.

Our correspondent 'Ido Shargil reports that the number of Land Day fatalities in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip now stands at four.

Soldier Wounded in West Bank

TA0604174389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] An Israel Defense Forces soldier was wounded today in the Janin District village of Qabatiyah by a stone thrown at his car. The soldier was hospitalized.

[IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1700 GMT reports that "A Jewish resident of Hebron was slightly wounded this afternoon by a stick hurled at him. He was treated on the spot and sent home. There were also several incidents of stone throwing in Bethlehem and Nabulus in which two Arabs sustained injuries."]

PLO's 'Abdallah Hurani Arrives in Amman 6 Apr

JN0604133889 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1205 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Amman, 6 Apr (INA)—'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived here today on a visit to Jordan lasting several days.

Palestinian sources told INA in Amman today that Hurani will meet with several senior Jordanian officials to brief them on the developments in the Palestine question on the Arab and international arenas, the PLO Central Council's decisions, and the results of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, and also to discuss relations between Jordan and the PLO.

The sources pointed out that Hurani will also discuss with the Jordanian officials the visit that Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the Palestinian state, will pay to Jordan in the next few weeks.

Joint Committee With Morocco Meets in Amman

JN2503070189 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
2100 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Amman—The third round of the joint Jordanian-Moroccan committee meetings started in Amman this evening. For 2 days, the committee will discuss increasing trade exchanges between the two countries to reach $45 million. The committee will also discuss cooperation in the field of shipping and the possibility of setting up an Arab marine route joining the Arab Maghreb to the Arab east.

Trade and Industry Minister Hamdi al-Tabba', head of the Jordanian side in the committee meetings, affirmed the necessity of increasing trade exchanges and strengthening the bonds of economic cooperation between the two countries. He expressed his hopes that the channels of cooperation will be expanded between Jordan and Morocco on the one hand, and between the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] and Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] on the other hand. He also affirmed the necessity of overcoming the obstacles that hinder the flow of national industrial products between the two countries.

For his part, Commerce and Industry Minister Abdallah Azmani, head of the Moroccan side, affirmed the necessity of industrial cooperation between the two countries to manifest the special relations between them and to set the sound and productive bases for fruitful cooperation in the economic field. He discussed the establishment of the ACC and AMU, clarifying that they form a new field for regional cooperation between the two groups and contribute toward increasing industrial cooperation between the council's countries and the union countries.

Committee Signs Minutes

JN2603125289 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
26 Mar 89, p 1, 14

[Text] Amman-PETRA—The third round of meetings of the joint Jordanian-Moroccan committee concluded its meetings in Amman yesterday evening.

The two ministers, Jordanian Trade and Industry Minister Hamdi al-Tabba' and Moroccan Commerce and Industry Minister 'Abdallah Azmani, signed the minutes of the meetings.

The minutes urge increased trade exchange between the two countries for the current year to reach a flat tax-free $40 million. They also consider all national products exchangeable between the two countries, provided they are accompanied by a certified certificate of origin. The Jordanian trade center in Casablanca and the Morrocan trade center in Amman will each be granted a share amounting to $16 million.

The minutes stipulate the establishment of a trade fair in each country in the current year with a share amounting to $4 million each, free of tax and administrative and monetary bonds, and allowing direct sale to the people, wholesalers, and importers from both countries.

The two sides welcomed the establishment of a joint Jordanian-Moroccan exhibit during the Jordanian products fair to be set up in Muscat in February 1990 under the supervision of the Jordanian Trade Centers Institution and Jordanian-Moroccan Exchange Growth Company.

The Moroccan side indicated its readiness to organize a round of talks to be held in Amman to benefit from the Moroccan experience in exporting agricultural products to European countries.

The two sides also agreed to hold a meeting during the current year for the representatives of the industrial sectors in the two countries to study the appropriate means for establishing industrial cooperation and coordination between them and unifying measurements and elements pertaining to agricultural production.

In the field of transport, the committee called on Arab companies welcoming the idea of setting up a regular marine line between Morocco and Jordan, passing by other Arab ports, to study the practical steps of establishing this line and to give it prominence.

The committee decided to hold its next meetings in Rabat during the coming year.

The signing of the minutes was attended by Muhammad al-Saqqaf, undersecretary of the [Jordanian] Ministry of Trade and Industry, and members of the Jordanian and Moroccan sides of the committee.

Commerce Minister Departs

JN2603150889 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Amman, 26 Mar (PETRA)—'Abdallah Azmani, Moroccan minister of commerce and industry, left Amman today following a 4-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, he held talks with a number of officials on the scope of economic cooperation and ways to coordinate industrial cooperation between the two countries.

He also led the Moroccan side to the meetings of the third session of the joint Jordanian-Moroccan committee, which concluded yesterday. Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi al-Tabba' led the Jordanian side in the committee. [passage omitted]

King, Prime Minister Receive Moroccan Speaker

JN2703183589 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] His majesty the king received at the Hashemite Royal Court this afternoon the visiting Moroccan Parliamentary Speaker Ahmed Osman and his accompanying delegation. His majesty conferred upon Mr Osman the Al-Kawakib medal of the first order. The audience was attended by his royal highness the crown prince, the speaker of the upper house of parliament, and the Moroccan ambassador to Jordan.

Also, the Prime Minister Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i received at his office the visiting Moroccan parliamentary speaker. The meeting was attended by the Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Mr Ahmad al-Lawzi, the Moroccan ambassador to Jordan, and the delegation accompanying Mr Osman.

Speaker Leaves Amman

JN2903080989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Amman—Moroccan Parliament Speaker Ahmed Osman left Amman tonight following a 3-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn, Crown Prince Hasan, and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. [passage omitted]

Indian Members of Joint Committee Arrive

JN2603201289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] The Indian members on the joint Jordanian-Indian committee arrived in Amman today. Over the next 3 days, the committee will discuss bilateral economic cooperation and the prospects for increased trade exchanges and stepped up exports of Jordanian phosphate, potash, and fertilizer. The sides will examine the possibility of the private sector starting joint ventures.

Committee Session Begins

JN2703193689 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] The third session of the joint Jordanian-Indian committee was held in Amman today under the Jordanian Industry and Trade Ministry secretary general and the Indian Commerce Ministry under secretary. The two sides reviewed the trade exchange between the two countries and ways to support it and promote it to the level of the distinguished relations between the two countries, especially since India is a major importer of the Jordanian phosphate, potash, and fertilizers.

They also reviewed spheres of economic cooperation and the possibility of India's contribution to the implementation of a number of Jordanian development projects as well as a number of joint projects between the two countries.

The Industry and Trade Ministry secretary general stressed Jordan's desire to increase its imports from India in light of the economic philisophy of free economy as well as of the relatively small Jordanian market. He reviewed the Industry and Trade Ministry's measures taken in cooperation with the public and private sectors in Jordan to increase and diversify Jordan's imports from India.

The Indian side showed its country's readiness to implement a number of development projects in Jordan, establish joint projects between the two sides, build the Al-Shidiyah airway project, and contribute to the implementation of the Al-Wahdah Dam.

Joint Meetings Continue

JN0104081589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Apr 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi al-Tabba' Thursday discussed with the Indian side to the joint Jordanian-Indian Committee meetings, currently held in Amman, scopes of cooperation in the various fields and means of increasing volume, of commercial exchange and increasing Jordanian imports from India to balance trade exchange.

Al-Tabba' also reviewed with members of the Indian team, progress of the committee's work and the steps it has taken so far to bolster economic cooperation, increase Jordanian imports from India and set up joint economic ventures.

He also discussed with the team issues pertaining to the Indian companies' contribution to implementing a number of Jordanian projects, including the Al-Shidiyah railroad, and the Al-Wahdah Dam on the Al-Yarmuk River.

The meeting was attended by the ministry's Secretary General Muhammad al-Saqqaf, who is also head of the Jordanian side to the joint Jordanian-Indian committee meeting, and the Indian Ambassador to Jordan Gurcharan Singh.

Agreement on Trade Reached

JN0204183289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Jordan and India have agreed to increase and diversify trade exchange between the two of them for the current year. This came at the conclusion of the third session of the Jordanian-Indian joint committee in Amman last night. The minutes of the committee meetings were signed for Jordan by the director general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and head of the Jordanian side, and for India by the under secretary of commerce and head of the Indian side to the committee meetings.

The minutes include ways to bolster economic and trade relations between the two countries. It was decided that Jordan export 1.5 million tonnes of phosphate, 550,000 tonnes of potash, and 200,000 tonnes of fertilizers to India during the current year. In return, Jordan will import $50 million worth of Indian commodities during the same year. These commodities include sugar, tea, and raw materials for national industries. The two sides agreed to hold trade exhibitions in both countries.

Workers From ACC Countries Given Priority

JN0504081989 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Apr 89 p 3

[By Caroline Faraj]

[Text] Amman—Jordan plans to give priority in employment for non-Jordanians to nationals from the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries in accordance with a set of regulations which will be agreed on among the four ACC states, Minister of Labour Marwan Dudin announced Tuesday.

The minister told the JORDAN TIMES that agreement between Jordan and the other three ACC countries will be reached on new fees to be charged from the workers. At present non-Jordanian Arab workers pay JD 100 annually if they are not employed in agricultural or nursing fields while non-Arab workers pay JD 300 for their work permits.

In the past year the Ministry of Labour issued 63,050 work permits for foreign workers of whom 40,629 were Egyptians; but there were none from Iraq or Yemen, according to Labour Ministry officials.

According to officials here Jordanian ministries are all preparing reports to be included in the agenda of the ACC prime ministers meeting due to open in Baghdad on April 10. The issue of workers from ACC countries they said will be among the topics.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Interior announced that Arab nationals from ACC countries are not required to obtain visas for their stay in Jordan but are issued them upon entry into the country. Furthermore, the ministry said that ACC nationals' stay here is unlimited, unlike those from other Arab and foreign countries.

The prime ministers of the ACC countries will meet in Baghdad to discuss administrative issues for the ACC including projects presented by the council's member states through various committees, according to earlier reports in the local press.

The heads of the four countries will meet in Cairo in May to sign detailed agreements on the implementation of the ACC resolutions.

Al-Qasim Confers With Norway's Foreign Minister

JN0404154889 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Amman, 4 Apr (PETRA)—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Thorvald Stoltenberg, Norwegian minister of foreign affairs, in his office today. During the meeting, they exchanged views on relations between the two friendly countries as well as a number of issues of common interest. They also discussed the latest developments in the Middle East. Al-Qasim gave a luncheon banquet in honor of the guest minister. Stoltenberg arrived in Amman this morning on a 1-day visit to Jordan.

In a statement to the press upon arrival, the Norwegian foreign minister said that his current tour of Jordan, Syria, and Israel is aimed at studying the region's latest developments pertaining to peaceful efforts to solve the Middle East problem, pointing out that his country attaches importance to the Middle East events and ways to promote the peace process.

The Norwegian guest also said that his country supports the convening of an international peace conference to be attended by all parties to the dispute, including the Palestinians. He said that the Palestinians have the right to select their representatives to the conference and that the Palestinians and the Arab countries consider the PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Norwegian guest said that his country has begun contacts with the PLO and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat following the Palestine National Council's resolutions and its recognition of Security Council Resolution No 242 and its renunciation of terrorism in response to calls from Norway and the other European countries.

He also stressed the time factor and the need to convene an international peace conference as quickly as possible, explaining that there are still many difficulties and challenges to be overcome.

Minister Leaves for Syria

JN0404204889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg left Amman this evening for Damascus after a 1-day visit to Jordan.

During his visit, he held talks with Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on friendly bilateral relations and a number of issues of mutual concern. They also discussed the latest developments in the Middle East region.

Al-Qasim expressed to the guest minister Jordan's great appreciation of the constructive stand taken by the Scandinavian countries during the meeting of their foreign ministers at the end of last month [March].

The Norwegian foreign minister today inaugurated the the Norwegian Consulate building in Amman.

Austrian Deputies Meet Prince Hasan, Al-Lawzi

JN3003132889 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan met today with Austrian socialist parliamentarians. The delegation is visiting Jordan as part of a fact-finding mission in the region. His royal highness exchanged views with the delegation on the peace process in the Middle East.

The crown prince lauded the current dialogue between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the American Administration and expressed hope that the two parties would reach positive results to accelerate the convening of the international peace conference on the Middle East.

His royal highness said that the disengagement of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank has strengthened the PLO's role in seeking a just and durable peace.

Earlier today, the speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, Mr Ahmad al-Lawzi met with the Austrian socialist parliamentarians. During the meeting, Mr Al-Lawzi said Jordan, under the leadership of his majesty the king, has always emphasized the need for a just and comprehensive peace to be established in the Middle East region, and the right of the peoples of the region to live in peace, including the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. He expressed hope that Europe, by virtue of its historic ties with the region, would undertake a significant role to proper peace efforts.

In comments at the meeting, head of the Austrian delegation said her country believes that the explosive situation in the region is not only a threat to its states, but also endangers world peace. She added that Austria stresses the need to establish a just peace in the area.

Meet With Information Minister

JN3003202089 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Austrian parliamentary delegation had been received by Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah, who praised the Jordanian-Austrian relations.

The minister briefed the delegation on Jordan's stand with regard to the Palestine problem and the Kingdom's efforts to unify Arab positions in a serious quest for peace.

The 30-member delegation is currently on a tour which includes Syria and Egypt in addition to Jordan.

Al-Huss Asks U.S. To Help With Cease-Fire

NC0504105289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] A short time ago Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss received a telephone call from U.S. Ambassador in Lebanon John McCarthy. They discussed the latest security and political developments in the country. Prime Minister al-Huss asked Ambassador McCarthy to urge his government to assist in achieving a cease-fire and in putting an end to the wave of violence in the country.

U.S. Ambassador's Residence Said Not Hit

NC0504110589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] At around 1215 today fierce clashes erupted on the Suq al-Gharb-'Aytat-'Alayh-Dahr al-Wahsh front line. These clashes are still continuing, and heavy tanks weaponry are being used. A number of shells have also fallen on Al-Kahhalah.

The Syrian shelling from occupation positions in the north earlier extended to the Jubayl area. One woman was wounded and taken to the hospital. Another 14 people were also injured in the shelling of the eastern areas.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman in Beirut has denied that the ambassador's residence received a direct hit. He said that some shells fell near the residence, not inside it.

French Envoy Said Stranded En Route to B'abda

NC0504122789 Paris AFP in English 1200 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Beirut, April 5 (AFP)—Syrian artillery gunners Wednesday knowingly targeted the residences of French diplomats east of Beirut, stranding a special French envoy, French diplomatic sources said.

Three shells fell fewer than 15 meters (yards) from the residence of Consul General Jean Marc Simon, the sources disclosed.

Fuel tanks were set ablaze and diplomatic staff took shelter in lower stories of the building, as apartments in neighboring buildings took direct hits.

The sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE: "Our local monitoring service confirmed that it had picked up a radio communication from a Syrian colonel ordering artillery fire to be concentrated on residences of the French Embassy and the nearby Ba'abda presidential palace."

Special envoy Jean Francois Deniau, deputy chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the French National Assembly, arrived here Wednesday and was to confer with General Michel 'Awn, head of an all-Christian military government, and the rival leader of a mainly Moslem cabinet, Salim al-Huss.

But Mr Deniau was stranded in Mr Simon's house, which is next to French Ambassador Paul Blanc's residence, until shortly after noon during intense artillery exchanges between Lebanese Army units loyal to Gen 'Awn and Syrian troops and their Lebanese allies.

[In a related report, (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 1145 GMT on 5 April adds: "French envoy Jean-Francois Deniau arrived in B'abda at noon today to meet with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn at the presidential palace, despite the intensive and constant shelling. He said on arrival: I have not come to Lebanon on an exploratory mission but on a definite working mission.]

[French press sources said that Deniau was stranded for 4 hours in the residence of the French consul general in Al-Hazimiyah where the nearby buildings were hit and fuel tanks were set on fire. While in the residence, Deniau said the shelling was coming either from the Syrians or the Druze. He stressed that the militias do not have 240-mm caliber shells and that these are the weapons of a regular army."]

Accuses Syrians of Shelling

LD0504182889 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Jean-Francois Deniau, the French envoy in Lebanon, tonight accused the Syrians of ordering artillery strikes against the French Embassy in Beirut in order to prevent him from meeting General 'Awn.

Shots were fired at the ambassador's residence this morning and shells fell less than 20 meters away. The French envoy said that he had confirmation of this as a result of telephone taps.

Meets With Al-Huss

NC0504135689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss received French Envoy Jean-Francois Deniau at 1500 today within the framework of the French endeavors to halt the deterioration in the security situation and open the door to a political dialogue in order to remedy the causes of the escalation.

Discusses Crisis With 'Awn

NC0504140389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has met with French Envoy to Beirut Jean-Francois Deniau. They discussed the energetic positive efforts which France is making both within and outside the framework of the European Community in order to help Lebanon and support its people's steadfastness in resolving their crisis. The meeting, which lasted 1 hour and 30 minutes, was attended by French Ambassador Paul Blanc.

Ba'th Party's Qansuh on Damascus Meetings

NC0504163189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Eyes remain focused on Damascus, waiting for the results of the meetings that are being held there. The Arab Committee is still meeting with the delegations representing the Lebanese nationalist parties and forces under the co-chairmanship of Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

Kuwaiti Ambassador in Damascus Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim and [Kuwaiti Ambassador to Lebanon] 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan are attending the meeting. The meeting had recessed for some time before it was resumed at 1500. The first meeting lasted 4 hours.

After the first round of talks, Eng 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, stated: The color of the smoke coming out from the meeting is white.

Asked if the smoke were white or gray, Qansuh said: White, until Michel 'Awn is finished.

Responding to a question on the cease-fire, Qansuh said: 'Awn will cease fire despite himself.

Al-Khatib Enumerates Charges Against Michel 'Awn

NC0504191389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] The Guidance Directorate of the Army Command [of Major General Sami al-Khatib] in Beirut has issued the following statement:

Acting Army Commander Staff Major Gen Sami al-Khatib has conveyed to the national defense minister and the military prosecutor a summary of the criminal actions which Gen Michel 'Awn and his responsible partners have committed. This is in addition to decision No 949 dated 25 March 1989 that orders the court-martial of Gen 'Awn. These crimes are:

1. On 1 August 1988, Gen 'Awn committed several crimes against the state's internal security. He engineered a plan for a military coup and permitted the publication and circulation of the coup plan document under the title: "The Army Remains the Solution."

In implementation of this plan, he obstructed and prevented the election of a new president on 18 August 1988. On 22 September 1988, he exercised military pressure and coercion inside the Presidential Palace, with the participation of the Lebanese Forces. By this act, he undermined the will of the president of the Republic, rendering him incapable of carrying out his duties. As a result, he managed to take over several political and military powers, contrary to the government's repeated orders.

Since 23 September, he has been carrying out military actions on land, sea, and air. These actions are regarded as an armed mutiny against the authorities in office according to the Constitution. In this way, he has violated Articles 303, 304 and 306 of the Penal Code.

2. On 14 March 1989 and since then, he has carried out massacres and terrorist actions. On 14 March he used artillery to shell the crossroads that were crowded with people, killing scores of persons who were burned inside their cars.

He also openly threatened to destroy the capital for the ninth time, causing a general state of alarm among the inhabitants, most of whom moved out in fright because of his terrorist actions. He used artillery fire to gun down people on the main roads from Beirut to Khaldah and from Al-Mudayrij to Shtawrah. With these actions, he contravened Article 314 of the Penal Code.

3. On 14 March 1989, he committed numerous crimes undermining the state's external security by carrying out hostile military actions against the fraternal Syrian Arab Republic and its Army, which constitutes a basic part of the Arab deterrent force that entered Lebanon at the request of the Lebanese Government. The legitimacy of the presence of these forces is substantiated by the resolutions adopted by Arab summit conferences.

The aim of these hostile actions is to cause fresh internal fighting among the Lebanese. He held the Lebanese responsible for the consequences of his military actions, which destroyed their personal property as well as public properties, and exposed the entire homeland to danger. By doing so, he violated Articles 288 and 292 of the Penal Code.

'Awn Reiterates Demands for Syrian Withdrawal

NC0504202989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has stated that Syria's role in Lebanon has ended. He stressed that he will support the deployment of any Arab or non-Arab peacekeeping force in Lebanon, with the exception of Syria and Israel.

In a statement to the MIDEAST MIRROR BULLETIN in London, Gen 'Awn reiterated his demands for establishing greater Beirut under the supervision of the Lebanese legitimate security forces alone, for holding free presidential elections, for drawing up a timetable for the Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, and for liberating the south by implementing the UN resolutions or by other means.

Rejects Cease-Fire Call

NC0504213289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2130 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister Michel 'Awn has declared that any cease-fire which is not reached between Lebanon and Syria is absolutely rejected.

Al-Khatib's Command Accepts Cease-Fire Appeal

NC0604065789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Statement issued by the Guidance Directorate of Major General Sami al-Khatib's Army Command in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] In response to the appeal [for a cease-fire] made by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah, chairman of the Arab committee, the Army Command announces that it will stop responding to the sources of shelling. It will be closely watching the Al-Yarzah command's artillery emplacements, which continue to shell our kinsmen. If the shelling continues, it will be compelled to retaliate.

'Awn Discusses Reason Behind 'War' in Interview

PM0504145489 Paris LE MONDE in French 5 Apr 89 pp 1,4

[Interview with Michel 'Awn by Lucien George in Beirut—date not given]

[Text] Beirut—After an "average" day—regular but not very intensive bombardments—the evening and night of Monday 3 to Tuesday 4 April were once again insane. There were 6 people killed and 20 wounded in the Christian camp and 3 killed and 10 wounded in the Muslim sector.

From the early hours of Tuesday morning, a few shells fell on the Kasrawan coastal strip which is in Christian territory. Like most days for the previous 3 weeks, activity is virtually paralyzed; electricity is cut off almost all the time.

This is the situation in Lebanon at the end of 3 weeks of war between the Christian section of the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese Forces on one side and Syria and its allies, essentially Muslim, on the other, at the very time when the Arab good-offices mission, comprising Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, was due to arrive in Damascus on Tuesday. Despite the rank of this mission's members, the Syrian leadership kept it waiting for 48 hours before receiving it, because of "previous engagements." This was interpreted as a sign that Syria is rejecting the return of the other Arab countries to the Lebanese scene.

The Arab committee is due to receive the pro-Syrians from the so-called "national" camp in Damascus on Wednesday and then the anti-Syrian Christians from the so-called "liberated zone" in Amman on Thursday. In the Muslim camp an alliance has been formed between the former Shi'ite enemies Amal and Hizballah, while in the Christian camp the Lebanese Forces are much more active in supporting the army, which they were fighting in February.

Gen Michel 'Awn, the leader of the Christian camp, assessed this new war, which promises to be protracted, for LE MONDE.

[George] You initiated these events. In view of what has happened, do you think it was the right time to do so?

['Awn] Better late than never. We have delayed for 14 years and we were heading for the country's total disintegration.

[George] That is a strategic interpretation of the situation. As a soldier, you know the importance of good timing from the tactical viewpoint.

['Awn] I reacted, I did not act.

[George] To whom or to what did you react?

['Awn] To the Syrian blockade on the region which is under the rule of the legal authorities, in other words the Christian sector, as soon as we tried to impose the rule of law on the illegal ports and the hotbeds of terrorism and drug trafficking which were discrediting the Lebanese state and destroying it by depriving it of its resources. I understand why the world, especially the West, should exert pressure on us to close those ports, but, as for urging us to reopen them....

[George] Have you not had to pay too high a price?

['Awn] Sovereignty, independence, and freedom can only be bought by blood.

[George] Do you think that the battle, and hence the bombardments, will continue for long?

['Awn] I cannot estimate the duration. But I advise the population to prepare to hold out for a long time. This is the best way of shortening a liberation war imposed by an occupying force—making him feel that he will ultimately lose. Syria should also be asked how long it could continue in this way.

[George] Did you expect such a tough Syrian response?

['Awn] Yes, I did, knowing the nature of the Syrian regime. But I did not expect Syria to relentlessly attack the civilian population and avoid confrontation with the Lebanese Army.

[George] Is it even avoiding confrontation on the Suq al-Gharb front?

['Awn] Absolutely. They are only bombarding it, there are no clashes. It is positional warfare.

[George] Are you not afraid of them breaking through?

['Awn] I hope that the Syrian Army tries to do so because that would enable us to teach them a lesson and shorten this war.

[George] What if the Air Force took action?

['Awn] The Air Force? What Air Force? I thought that the Syrians were not taking part in this war....

[George] Is the Arab committee's appearance on the scene not likely to make things worse rather than settling matters because Damascus regards the "Arab solution" as the least acceptable of all?

['Awn] I think that this is one of the reasons for this war starting. Some regarded it as premature, blaming me for it. Surely this is the explanation? Fearing an Arab solution or the beginnings of an Arab solution, Syria made every effort to sabotage it, as it has always done and always will do.

[George] By loudly accusing Syria and President al-Asad in person, are you not afraid that you have caused irreparable damage?

['Awn] I would like those who have had dealings with the Syrians to tell me how to negotiate with them. If they win, they want everything, if they lose, they cannot accept anything. They know nothing about balanced solutions.

[George] Do you not think that you are taking an impossible gamble in trying to expel the Syrians from the other camp?

['Awn] The Lebanese people no longer want the Syrians. A referendum should be held under international control to verify that.

[George] Mr al-Huss, prime minister of the Muslim camp, has proposed that you both stand down.

['Awn] He has once again missed a good opportunity for remaining silent because he cannot tell the truth at this tragic and historic time for our country. Advising me to go means handing Lebanon over to Syria, and hence a gradual and inevitable death.

[George] Your enemies accuse you of making every effort to become president of the republic.

['Awn] I do not want to be president. I refuse that. I am a soldier and my only aim is to participate in my country's liberation and then to retire.

[George] How can the vicious circle be broken?

['Awn] The UN Security Council must implement its own resolutions. I ask for nothing more.

Al-Asad Urges Lebanese Unity, National Accord

JN0504210189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, at 1930 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Kuwaiti Ambassador in Damascus Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim attended the meeting.

The situation in the Lebanese arena and the efforts being exerted by the Arab committee were reviewed. The president expressed his appreciation of the committee's efforts and stressed that Syria will continue to help it in its mission. He also stressed the need for us all to cooperate to rescue Lebanon from the difficult circumstances through which it is passing so that the country will be united in land and people and so that it will cooperate with its Arab nation. The president indicated that Syria does not distinguish between one Lebanese faction and another. It supports the Lebanese as much as they do their homeland and the unity of their land and people. It also supports the Lebanese national accord, which renders the Lebanese equal in rights and duties.

The president stressed that despite the behavior of some individuals, Syria supports and cares for all the Lebanese. It urges all to seek rapprochement, dialogue, and national reconciliation.

London Paper on USSR Defense Minister's Visit

PM0504135289 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 5-11 Apr 89 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Soviet Defense Minister in Damascus"]

[Excerpts] Soviet Defense Minister General Dimitriy Yazov last week visited Damascus and held talks with Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas. He was also received by President Hafiz al-Asad.

During his stay in Syria Yazov toured the two ports of Tartus and Latakia, where some Soviet naval installations are situated. [passage omitted]

Arab diplomatic sources say that the Soviet position on the need to control the arms race in the Middle East constitutes the basic point of disagreement with Damascus at present. This is why the Soviets have frozen the Syrian leadership's request to acquire the advanced combat aircraft, the Sukhoi-24, the reason given being the huge scale of Syria's military debts, currently totalling over $15 billion.

Al-Ahmar Receives Visiting CPSU Delegation

JN0504194389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP], this evening received the CPSU delegation, headed by Comrade Ponomarev, member of the CPSU Central Committee, which is visiting Syria on the invitation of the ASBP National Command. The USSR ambassador in Damascus attended.

During the meeting the conversation revolved around relations between the two parties and their development and around the cooperation agreement between them for the next 2 years.

During the meeting, Comrade al-Ahmar reviewed the development of situations in the Arab arena, particularly the Lebanese and Palestinian arenas. He asserted Syria's firm principled stand, which is based on pursuing efforts to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the Arab region through an effective international conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, that will result in regaining the occupied Arab territories and attaining the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights, particularly their right to establish their independent state.

Al-Ahmar referred to the conspiracy implemented by [General Michel] 'Awn and his Zionized clique against Lebanon's people and its nationalist forces. He said: Syria will continue its support of the Lebanese national reconciliation, which is generally based on political reforms in the system's structure.

Comrade al-Ahmar praised the strong relations of friendship between the two countries and parties and their continuous improvement in a manner that serves the interests of both countries and the objectives of their common struggle. He also voiced high appreciation for the Soviet Union's stand supporting the Arab struggle and its peace initiatives to achieve detente in international relations and full disarmament and strengthen world peace, which is based on justice.

On his part, Comrade Ponomarev asserted CPSU's stand supporting Syria and the issues of the Arab struggle. He expressed his feelings and impressions about the progress and prosperity in Syria, which he saw during his visit. He asserted the appreciation of the Soviet Union and all peace-loving forces in the world for Syria's role and course in the region.

Reportage on Visit by Norwegian Foreign Minister

Arrives in Damascus 4 Apr

JN0404205289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg arrived in Damascus today on a 2-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

The Norwegian minister made a statement to journalists at the airport in which he clarified that the aim of this visit is to be briefed on the reality of the situation and the peace process in the Middle East region. He pointed out that events in this region are of great importance to the Scandinavian countries.

Confers With Al-Shar'

JN0504102089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg and his delegation this morning. The meeting was attended by Yusuf Shakkur, assistant to the foreign minister; the directors of the West European Department and the International Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry; and the Norwegian charge d'affaires in Damascus. During the meeting, the talks centered on the various aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict. They also stressed the need for a just and comprehensive solution through a UN-sponsored international conference.

Meets With Khaddam

JN0504131489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg and the accompanying delegation at 1130 today. The Norwegian charge d'affaires in Damascus attended the meeting. They discussed the situation in the region and bilateral issues.

Departs After 2-Day Visit

JN0504144089 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus, 5 Apr (SANA)—Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg today left Damascus following a 2-day visit to Syria.

The Norwegian minister was seen off at the airport by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; a number of Foreign Ministry officials; and the Norwegian charge d'affairs in Damscus.

Reportage on Visit of Cypriot Interior Minister

Arrives in Damascus 2 Apr

JN0204213489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus—At the invitation of Interior Minister Dr Muhammad Harbah, Cypriot Interior Minister Khristodoulos Veniamin and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit of several days to Syria. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Dr Harbah, foreign minister [as heard] assistants, directors of the ministry's central departments, a number of senior Interior Ministry officers, the Cypriot ambassador in Damascus, and senior embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA, Veniamin stressed the depth of relations between the two friendly countries in all fields. He pointed out that the visit comes within the framework of consultations and discussion of issues of common concern. He praised the great progress and development in the Syrian Arab Republic in all fields thanks to the wise leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. He said: My visit is the fourth of its kind, and the fact is, to our pleasure, I feel new progress in Syria on each visit. Concluding his statement, he said that Syria is very fortunate to have Hafiz al-Asad as its president.

Meets With Al-Zu'bi

JN0304201189 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at 1930 today Cypriot Interior Minister Khristodoulos Veniamin with Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah in attendance. They talked about ties between the two friendly countries and how to further develop them in their common interest.

Meets With Al-Asad, Khaddam

JN0404123989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Cypriot Interior Minister Khristodoulos Veniamin at 1230 today. The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Dr Muhammad Harbah. Veniamin conveyed to the president the greetings of Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou. The president accepted them and asked him to convey his greetings and wishes to President Vasiliou, the Cypriot Government, and the friendly Cypriot people. Discussion revolved around the situation in the region and bilateral relations.

Earlier, at 0930 today, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received the Cypriot interior minister. Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah attended the meeting. Discussion revolved around issues of interest to Syria and Cyprus.

Departs After 3-Day Visit

JN0504150089 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus, 5 Apr (SANA)—Cypriot Interior Minister Khristodoulos Veniamin today left Damascus following a 3-day visit, during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad.

Commentary Attacks 'Awn's 'Isolationist' Shelling

JN0104141189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The chief of the isolationist military clique in fraternal Lebanon insists on bypassing all the facts of the Lebanese problem, which has been continuing for 15 years, and creating a battle with Syria. He shoots out a stream of falsities and threats and talks of liberating the country. However, at the same time, he pours his gunfire on the peaceful Lebanese and the residential quarters of western Beirut, the mountain, and the Al-Biqa' valley causing great losses in property and lives.

The Lebanese citizens were enjoying peace and quiet and had gone back to running their affairs normally. This was due to the watchful eye of Syria. Syria watched over their comfort and provided them with peace and stability. Just as they were returning to a state of quiet, these people have been exposed, and for days now, to a begrudging isolationist shelling. This forced them to halt their daily activites and seek refuge in shelters. Some of them have died; others have been injured; yet others suffered from starvation as a result of their inability to move and work.

This is how the chief of the military clique conceives the alleged liberation: killing the innocent, destroying homes and livelihoods, escalating the civil war, and scattering the Lebanese people. 'Awn, who controls approximately only 20 percent of the fraternal country's territories, considers the 80 percent who form a majority to be agents who should be made to submit by force, oppression, and annihilation, if necessary. Those people are not Lebanese, in the opinion of the head of the military clique, and the proof is that he is subjecting their areas to manic shelling. He also believes that the force which asserted its presence in the Lebanese arena, resisted the Israeli invasion in 1982, and, for a long time, has been confronting the isolationist Zionist scheme, is not Lebanese.

If the authority—any authority in the world—acquires its legitimacy through its recognition by the people, its adherence to the people, and its efforts to realize their ambitions and wishes, then 'Awn's military government has no legitimacy. Eighty percent of the Lebanese oppose it strongly. Those under the yoke of its hegemony in the areas under its control are disgruntled and do not hide their indignation and worry over what is happening. This government has not managed to attract a single minister from the national areas. In fact, it has not even managed to attract a single known minister from the regions under its control.

The Lebanese people agree unanimously that this government has usurped the authority, violated the constitution and institutions, and is leading the country to a real disaster. This government has also not clung to one national goal. In fact, the opposite is true. It extended bridges with Israel and its agents in the occupied south, rebelled against the efforts of national accord and reconcilation amongst the sons of the same nation, and refused to establish any political or social reform to end the crisis. All its decisions and measures poured toward the Zionized partitionist scheme.

Then, this government, all of a sudden, lifts the banner of liberation. Of course, not the liberation of the south occupied by the Israelis and their agents, but liberating Lebanon from the nationalist Lebanese. This alleged liberation took the form of bombs and fire yielding peaceful citizens and destroying their property and homes. This is 'Awn's war of liberation: Destroying Lebanon, crushing its Arab identity, tearing its unity, and ending its existence and bond to its environment.

Is this war any different than Israel's war of 1982? Is it not natural that the Lebanese nationalist forces and the broad masses oppose this crazy war and its planners as they did the Israeli invasion? This opposition affirms their adherence to the united Arab Lebanon, the necessity of reforming the existing system so that it becomes the back up of a people with no war, and Syria's great pan-Arab role which, for 14 years, has preserved the unity of Lebanon's people and territory and prevented the success of the Zionist partitionist scheme.

Afghanistan

Supreme Command Issues Statement on Cease-Fire
LD0504210889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1630 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Statement by the Supreme Command of the Afghan Armed Forces:

In honor of the arrival of the holy month of Ramadan and to value the rational, Islamic, national, and peace-seeking proposals by the country's 'ulema, clergymen, chiefs, elders, and dignitaries; to hold fast to high Islamic principles as the action programme of the Afghan Government; to end the war and fratricide in light of the national reconciliation policy, the continuation of which in all instances, particularly in the holy month of Ramadan, is contrary to the Islamic and national holy principles of religious Afghans and completely against the fasting ritual and observance of the month of Ramadan, and in no way isin the Muslims' interests, now or in the hereafter; and to realize the long-term aspirations of Afghans, the Muslim and religious people, while regarding the defense of the country's territorial integrity and national sovereignty, have all been regarded as the major, Islamic, and fundamental principle of the Afghan Government.

This duty has been carried out as a major holy war by our Armed Forces brave personnel, and in honor of the arrival of the month of Ramadan and to display the pure intention of goodwill under circumstances where no one is has any doubts about the strength of the country's Armed Forces over the past 50 days since the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, [the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces] declares a cease-fire on all fronts starting from the 1st day of the holy month of Ramadan until the 4th day of 'Id al-Fitr.

All units and subunits of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, with vigiliance and high combat preparedness, must be alert to those who do not observe the cease-fire and inflict crushing blows on them.

The armed opposition groups, in particular those in Nangarhar Province, must also perceive their Islamic duty toward the holy month of Ramadan and cease fighting, so they and the residents of Jalalabad can best and in a peaceful manner observe their obligations during Ramadan. If this Islamic duty is broken, heavy blows will be inflicted on them and they will be responsible to Almighty God and the people. Those who block roads to prevent the supply of foods from reaching the cities and who steal the people's bread will recieve heavy blows from the Armed Forces, because their actions are un-Islamic.

The Armed Forces will inflict blows on those who bring weapons convoys and the means of death and destruction into the country or who attack the food and fuel convoys, block highways, or store weapons in the city surroundings to prepare for attacks. The proclamation of the cease-fire, which will remain in force for over a month, is purported to open a new phase of understanding for a bilateral, durable cease-fire, peace, and talks—if the opposition accepts and observes it.

The Afghan Government made a sincere effort to accept the proposals of the esteemed chiefs, elders, and 'ulema. The government made this effort out of its love for the homeland and its determination to prevent any annoyance to the people, any hue and cry by the widows and orphans, any tears shed by the mothers for their martyred sons, no matter which side they fought on.

Our compatriots know, of course, that this year the holy month of Ramadan faces a new set of circumstances: The last Soviet soldier has returned to his country in line with the Geneva accords. It is now up to the Afghans themselves, relying on the will of Almighty God and applying the principles of Islam and our nation, to extinguish the flames of fire in our home and to bring peace and stability to our compatriots' homes. Thus, we expect all the opposition groups to observe the cease-fire in honor of the holy month of Ramadan and the practice of fasting. By stopping the war and fratricide, the ground will be prepared for ending the war. During Ramadan the routes used to transport foodstuffs and goods will remain open so that the people may perform their religious rituals in peace, so that they may be able to pray to Almighty God in their evening prayers for the well-being, prosperity, and peace of their homeland.

By proclaiming a cease-fire, a good opportunity exists for the commanders inside the country not to take on any additional responsibility in this world and in the hereafter. By observing the cease-fire and keeping the roads open, they will be extending their hands in brotherhood, observing the command of Almighty God, thus joining their compatriots in their Islamic, humane, and national call for peace and a loaf of bread.

By issuing this statement our compatriots once again can judge both the noble intention of the Republic of Afghanistan and the deeds of the opposition and thus truly see who, on the behalf of foreigners, is continuing the fratricide and shedding the bloods of Afghans. The free, Muslim, and religious Afghans will respect those who, by observing the cease-fire, honor high Islamic religious principles, sacred religious rituals, and national honors. Undoubtedly, those who do not give a positive reply to this humane, national, and Islamic call by the Republic of Afghanistan or break the cease-fire will continue the killing and assassination of our people [word indistinct] and destruction of our country [words indistinct]

The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces points out that regarding the cease-fire, this period can be extended. Under the circumstances of a cease-fire the opportunity will be provided for talks to be held with the opposition about conditions to extending this period. Under these circumstance the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan will have the duty to specify and, if required, to assist those groups and commanders who have observed the cease-fire and provided an atmosphere of peace and security for our compatriots to observe their religious rituals.

The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan will inform our compatriots from time to time about the observation or nonobservation of the cease-fire in various regions of the country.

Najibullah Interview on Cease-Fire Noted

BK0604060689 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 6 Apr 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] For the next month, Muslims all over the world will observe the holy month of fasting Ramadan and President Najibullah of Afghanistan has used the occasion to announce a unilateral cease-fire. But, will it be taken up by the guerrillas who are still besieging the eastern city of Jalalabad? Our correspondent in Kabul, Lyce Ducet, spoke to President Najibullah about the cease-fire decision.

[Begin Ducet recording] Choosing the start of the Muslim holy month seems intended to belie the guerrilla claim that they are fighting a holy war against the godless leadership in Kabul. President Najibullah said they wanted to emphasize that blood shouldn't be shed during this period, and that the doors of national reconciliation were never closed. In a BBC interview, he said the tribal elders who met in Kabul this week had urged him to make another overture. Some of them were from areas such as Jalalabad, where a month-long guerrilla offensive has so far not dislodged the government troops. But the president disagreed that previous cease-fires hadn't worked.

In January, he said, some guerrillas observed (?retreat) for 10 hours until they were instructed to do otherwise by their parties based in Pakistan. He added that some small independent groups had refrained from violence since then, and he expected others to follow suit this time—those, who as he put it, allowed common sense and reason to prevail.

Most observers expect the main commanders to continue their current offensive which will oblige the government forces to take up arms again. But the president said that if the guerrillas responded positively to his offer, he would be ready to ease other security measures, such as the more than month-long state of emergency, and he was prepared to take new measures to open negotiation, although he didn't elaborate. Everything, he emphasized, depended on the other side.

The president believed there was a growing feeling that this war was irrational. Questions were being raised, he said, even [by] the American Administration about military calculations in Jalalabad, especially, he added, the calculations of the Pakistani military, which he accused of offering massive support to help the guerrillas take this important eastern city. [end recording]

Defense Minister Comments on Forces' Capability

AU0504141189 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 4 Apr 89 p 5

[Interview with Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, minister of national defense, by correspondent Volodya Stratiev: "Our Army Is Capable of Defending Afghanistan," on 3 April in Kabul]

[Text] [Stratiev] The actions of the irreconcilable opposition brought to the forefront the military confrontation between government troops and the extremist groups. For more than a month, Jalalabad has been one of the most frequently mentioned geographical names in the mass media all over the world, whenever they report about Afghanistan. Naturally, the question is not only one of a military victory in this town east of Kabul. What is the military political situation in the country as a whole? This was the first question I asked 38-year-old Lieutenant General Shahwanaz Tanay, defense minister of the Republic of Afghanistan.

[Shahnawaz Tanay] Following the withdrawal of Soviet troops, the extremists hoped that by violating the Geneva accords and by acting against the policy of national reconciliation they would be able to win a decisive victory over the Republic of Afghanistan. They tried to show the world that the Afghan Government is incapable of defending the country on its own.

With the support of the United States and Pakistan the extremists began to dispatch an increasing number of groups and armaments to our territory. It was their goal to seize one of the provinces and to establish their own government in the capital of this province in order to control the ensuing military operations from that base. Along with this, they conducted extensive and active propaganda work in an attempt to influence the people, the Armed Forces, and the party. As you know, they are now engaging in military actions in Qandahar, Konduz, Kabul, and in other provinces, but they did not achieve any significant successes.

As is known, they recently intensified their actions in the area of Qandahar, of which Jalalabad [as published] is the provincial center. As far as their their combat operations in the Jalalabad area are concerned, they were initially well organized and planned. Not only the commanders of the opposition, but also Pakistani generals conducted the operations in that area—the Pakistani Army having planned these operations. Pakistan, as a matter of fact, gave comprehensive assistance to the opposition, so that its goals may be fulfilled, as a result of which the so-called provisional government was established in Jalalabad. We knew about these plans and our Armed Forces halted the offensive.

I would like to say that the number of those participating in the offensive was larger than the number of the defending troops. Coordination between the individual extremist groups and their commanders is affected by many problems. This is the reason why the extremists suffered great losses in these operations. Their combat spirit is very low today, despite the fact that increasing numbers of new groups are being dispatched to the area. The controversies which also existed in the past between higher- and middle-ranking commanders of the opposition increased even more following the failure of their attacks against Jalalabad.

At present, they are incapable of engaging in any mass operation against Jalalabad because we consolidated our positions in that area. Our soldiers honorably fulfilled their tasks. Our Armed Forces are already on the attack and as the extremists could not achieve their goal, they began to shell Jalalabad indiscriminately.

[Stratiev] Can we assume that the irreconcilable ones are now preparing parallel attacks, in order to divert the government forces' attention from Jalalabad?

[Shahnawaz Tanay] Yes, the extremists are planning such attacks. Their efforts are aimed at reducing our forces in Jalalabad. However, as the saying goes, there is no war without losses, and their losses have been greater than ours—so far. We can say that the morale of our troops is high and that the goals of the opposition are impossible to achieve, regardless of all their ambitious plans.

[Stratiev] Comrade General, you have passed through all steps in your career from lieutenant to the rank of lieutenant general. Do you often inspect Army units? Are you personally in touch with the events of Army life? I read that you recently visited Jalalabad. How do the soldiers react to the presence of their defense minister among them?

[Shahnawaz Tanay] Yes, I was in Jalalabad, but I inspected only the staff headquarters and the frontline of defense. (At this point General Tanay described in detail how he reached the Jalalabad airport area by helicopter, how he managed to find his way to the command post in real combat style, and how the observation post where he appeared was attacked by missiles). I visited the defense posts of the town. The soldiers told me that they are ready to defend Jalalabad.

I have been all over the country; I visited numerous units. Many of our soldiers are illiterate, but they rejoice whenever their leaders, their officers and immediate commanders, or even higher-ranking officers come to visit them. If you were to tell them that the whole world is watching them, they would not be so pleased. They are much happier when their commanders are with them.

[Stratiev] As you have just said, you frequently do the things we have been talking about.

[Shahnawaz Tanay] This is related to one's particular character. I cannot be satisfied unless I see everything with my own eyes.

[Stratiev] Do the opposition groups fighting against you represent a well-trained army, or do they consist of hastily trained people? How are they conducting their combat operations?

[Shanawaz Tanay] From the point of view of army organization, they are well organized. Naturally, they are entirely supported by the Pakistani Army. It is difficult to train units to attack, seize, and occupy towns. For as long as 10 years the extremists waged only a guerrilla war. They have no elaborate tactics for prolonged operations. The majority of the men serving in those troops are misled and deceived individuals who were immediately sent to the battlefield without the necessary training.

This is the reason why unplanned actions frequently prevail in their offensives. They usually suffer greater losses in prolonged combat operations. Apart from the experience and strict organization of our Army, which they lack, the opposition groups just do not have a proper structure. Sometimes they have no patience—they just attack, seize, plunder, and run away.

Our Army is composed of well-trained cadres. We learned a great deal from 10 years of war. Naturally, we also encounter some difficulties.

[Stratiev] I know that the current combat operations are the most important concern of the defense minister today. Nevertheless, from a military point of view, what do you think will happen after Jalalabad?

[Shahnawaz Tanay] Our main goal is to improve combat readiness and to increase the vigilance of our troops, because the irreconcilable ones are trying to take advantage of our shortcomings. We are now fighting in Jalalabad near Kabul, in Qandahar, Herat, and Pagman, and our special attention is focused on these posts, while the enemy, just like us, is constantly watching them.

Government Sentences 2 Pakistanis for 'Espionage'

BK0504152489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1410 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 5 (AFP)—A special State Security Court Wednesday sentenced two Pakistani nationals to up to 18 years in jail for spying and conducting military activities inside Afghan territory.

Mohammad Azful, 26, who identified himself as a corporal in the Pakistani CID [Criminal Investigation Department] was sentenced to 16 years' imprisonment, and Mohammad Ashraf, 35, who identified himself as a corporal in the Pakistani Militia seconded to the Special Branch was sentenced to 18 years.

The three-hour court session, held in a hall in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here, was conducted under a blaze of television lights and foreign reporters in kabul were invited to attend.

Pakistan has denied Kabul allegations that its militia are fighting alongside mujahidin resistance guerrillas in Afghanistan.

Presiding Judge Obayd Sakhi told the two men that their activities warranted the death sentence, but because both had asked for clemency, the court had seen fit to impose a lesser penalty. He said both men, who were said to have been captured in Qandahar Province bordering Pakistan in March, were entitled to appeal their sentences within 40 days.

Public Prosecutor Faisul Rachman Poson [name as received] charged that both men had confessed to espionage, and dwelt at length in his charges on the fact that they had confessed to personally witnessing Pakistani Militia in Afghan dress taking part in fighting inside Afghan territory.

Mr. Poson repeatedly asked the two men to describe what military activities they had observed by other members of the Pakistani Militia and Special Branch on the Afghan side of the common border. He also and read passages of their interrogation sheets which stated that they had variously witnessed Pakistani Militia fighting in the third line of attack.

The men also stated that they had witnessed Pakistani artillery support for mujahidin guerrillas who have been fighting for the past 10 years against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul. They had also confessed to having seen Pakistani military trucks supplying the mujahidin with both food and weapons, and military training of Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Since the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan February 15, the government in Kabul has repeatedly accused Pakistan of being the "main foreign aggressor" in the continuing fighting here. The most concerted accusations have been that the Pakistani military, in particular Pakistani military intelligence, has been providing unprecedented levels of military support in the mujahidin seige of the strategic eastern garrison city of Jalalabad, which started one month ago and is continuing.

Although neither man was captured in the vicinity of Jalalabad, Mohammad Azful said he had met some mujahidin who had been fighting with Pakistani support in the battle of Jalalabad before his capture March 10.

As well as spying Mohammad Azful was specifically charged with trying to entice Afghan military men to defect to the other side and to sell their weapons, and Mohammad Ashraf with training mujahidin units in the use of various types of weapons including U.S-supplied Stinger missiles.

Further on Trial

LD0504195489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Two spies of Pakistan's intelligence organization, the Special Branch, Officer Mohammad Ashraf Bashir and CID [Criminal Investigation Department] Officer Mohammad Azful Gojar, who were arrested recently during espionage and combat activities with the Rasul Sayyaf group by officers of the security organs in Qandahar Province, were tried today in an open court. It was attended by domestic and foreign journalists and a number of our compatriots.

According to a BAKHTAR report, their interrogation was completed some time ago. Their confession, given at the news conference attended by domestic and foreign journalists, a number of diplomats, and a representative of the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] in Kabul, has already been published by our mass media.

At today's trial the special national security prosecutor read a statement about each of the accused, who were then allowed to read their defense statements and to speak in a fully democratic and free atmosphere and in line with Islamic shari'a. The accused once again confessed their spying and subversive activities in the company of the extremist groups.

The special national security court, after reading the file and listening to the statement by the prosecutor and the confessions of the accused and other evidence, sentenced Pakistani citizen Mohammad Ashraf Bashir to 18 years' imprisonment startin from the date of his detention in line with Articles 221, 271, and 273, and with the last paragraph of Article 275 of the Criminal Procedure Law, Article 2 of the Internal and External Security Law, and Article 23 of that law.

Similarly, the accused Mohammad Azful Gojar was sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment starting from the date of his detention in line with Article 2 of the Internal and External Security Law and Article 23 of that law. The court verdict is not final and the accused were given 1 month for appeal against the first court in line with court procedure and administrative law.

Correspondent on Chemical Weapons in Jalalabad

LD0504162889 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] London, April 5, IRNA—The Afghan Air Force has reportedly dropped chemical bombs on a caravan that was seeking refuge in Pakistan.

According to AGENCE AFGHAN PRESS [as received] monitored in London, the pioson gas attack was made on Monday at Khush Gunbad village in the subdivision of Gowshtah, Nangarhar Province.

One correspondent on the Jalalabad front was said to have found 10 women and children killed during the chemical bombing and at least 24 others, including elderly people, injured. No further details were given.

The regime of President Najibullah has previously been accused of deploying chemical weapons to prevent the mujahidin from coming to power.

Rebel Leader on USSR-Indian Bombing

LD0604100189 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad, April 6, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi said to IRNA here Wednesday that Soviet and Indian troops have bombed the positions of the mujahidin near Jalalabad.

He also said the ruling government in Afghanistan has deployed lethal chemical weapons against the mujahidin, and called on world nations to provide militant Afghans with devices for countering chemicals.

In relation with the participation of the Tehran-based eight-party coalition in the provisional government in Afghanistan, Muhammad Nabi who is also defense minister in the interim government, said according to an agreement between Gulbuddin Hikmatyar and 'Abdol Karim Khalili in Tehran, talks are to resume in Islamabad.

Earlier on a delegation of the Islamabad-based seven-party coalition led by Burhanuddin Rabbani was to visit Tehran, but according to political circles Hikmatyar disagreed with the idea, and prevented the visit.

Rebel Leader Says Indians Involved in Bombing

BK0504021989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Prof Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, president of the interim government of Afghanistan, has alleged that Indian pilots are involved in the bombing of mujahidin positions in Afghanistan.

Addressing a news conference in Quetta yesterday evening, he categorically stated that no Pakistani soldier is fighting in Afghanistan.

Professor Mojaddedi said that he is ready to form a broad-based Islamic government in Afghanistan after independence from the present regime. He however added that he will not include any communist in that government because no Afghan will like it.

Mojaddedi on Mujahidin Successes, Planned Attacks

BK0604102389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Prof Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, the president of the interim government of Afghanistan, has said the mujahidin have achieved major successes on both the battle and political fronts. Addressing a news conference in Quetta today, he said the mujahidin have strengthened their positions around major cities and are waiting for the (?end) of the winter season snowfall to launch final attacks on them.

Mujahidin Shoot Down MiG Aircraft 5 Apr

BK0504160289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin are now intensifying their attacks on the Jalalabad airport and a Kabul regime military post in the western part of the city. The mujahidin also ambushed Kabul regime troops in the southwestern part of the besieged city today, besides shelling the nearby posts.

Another report says that the mujahidin shot down a MiG aircraft northeast of Jalalabad. Kabul Radio reported that fierce fighting is continuing in and around Jalalabad City. The mujahidin have used rockets, long-range cannon, and mortars in this fighting.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources have confirmed the report that the Jalalabad-Kabul highway has been totally closed for the past 3-4 weeks.

10 Dead, 39 Injured in Kabul Rocket Attack

LD0504164189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Criminal extremists linked to Pakistan launched three surface-to-surface missiles this afternoon on residential areas of Kabul city Wards No 1, 2, and 11. Ten of our compatriots were martyred, including children and women and wounded 39.

The BIA military section reports that extremist criminals committed this shocking and unforgiveable crime at a time when our faithful and peace-loving compatriots are about to enter the month of Ramadan, a sacred month when all Muslims are engaged in prayers, facing Almighty God and performing their Islamic duty.

The rockets launched by these lunatics hit the Mohammadia Madressa road at (Chindawal), and a crowded area of Kabul city, Zarnegar Park. They have inflicted material losses, too. A third rocket hit part one of Kheyr Khaneh Mena. It did not cause any loss of life or property.

Those wounded in the incidents were transferred to the hospital and are being treated.

Rebels Shell Jalalabad, Other Cities

LD0504173689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] A strong joint offensive from various directions by Pakistani and associated groups against the defense lines of Jalalabad city was launched in the past 24 hours with shelling from heavy weapons. A spokesman for the Afghan Armed Forces told a BAKHTAR military correspondent that Pakistani artillery forces and their puppet groups fired thousands of rounds of rockets and other heavy weapons on Jalalabad city and its defenses. The enemy engaged simultaneously with extensive attacks by their ground forces from several directions.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan retaliated with resolute and regular attacks by artillery and Air Force strikes, thereby completely halting the enemy attack and resolutely forcing it back. As a result of the enemy shelling, one resident was martyred and another five were wounded. One soldier was killed and seven were wounded.

During the retaliatory attacks by the Afghan Army, 131 members of the Pakistani joint forces and the groups linked to it were killed and 89 were wounded. Some 18 enemy mortars, 7 rocket launcher units, 3 BM-1 units, 31 rocket launchers, 4 rifles, 1 tank, 2 caches of artillery ammunition, and 13 trucks carrying weapons and ammunition were destroyed.

According to another report, units and companies of the Afghan Armed Forces in Qandahar Province carried out mopping up and search operations in parts of the province. As a result four members of armed groups linked to Pakistan were killed and seven were wounded. One tractor carrying enemy ammunition was destroyed, and 110 mortar mines, 21 antivehicle mines, and 13 missiles were seized by the Armed Forces.

The enemy also fired missiles at Khowst District and parts of Herat and Paktia Provinces. There was no loss of life. As a result of retaliatory actions by the Armed Forces in Shindand District, 12 armed members of the Pakistani puppet groups, including one of their commanders, 'Abdol Samad, were killed.

Also as a result of mopping up operations in parts of Sarowbi District, 28 armed extremist elements who were engaged in disrupting peace and security were killed, 17 were wounded, and 7 antipersonnel and antivehicle mines were discovered and neutralized. Two enemy DShK's, one rifle and one weapons cache were also destroyed in the operations.

The BAKHTAR military section adds that armed clashes between armed extremist groups yesterday and today resulted in the death and injury of a dozen members of the enemy groups. In the clashes between Gulbuddin and Rabbani extremist groups, Wahhabi and Gulbuddin groups, Rabbani and the so-called Hezbollah groups, which took place in parts of Herat and Nangarhar Provinces, 11 people were killed, 14 wounded, and 11 members of the Rabbani extremist group were captured by individuals belong to the Gulbuddin extremist group.

Mujahidin Delegation Visits Jalalabad Front

BK0504111689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] A mujahidin delegation has visited Samar Kheyl and frontline positions on Jalalabad front. They were briefed about the arms and ammunition captured by the mujahidin from the garrison at Samar Kheyl. The delegation held meetings with the commanders in the area.

Violation Notices 375-377 Handed to UN Mission

LD0604085189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 5, BAKHTAR—Three more notices, 375- 77, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan on violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords were submitted to the office of the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) Tuesday.

Attention of the UNGOMAP is drawn on the (?explosion) organised by extremists in an apartment adjacent to the 14 storey building in the Jade Maiwand [name as received], Kabul on [words indistinct] through notice number 375.

A list of armaments of different make including anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, chemicals and publicity material which fell at the hand of the security forces on April 2 was attached with Notice 376. The notice has further specified that the said armaments were put at the disposal of the extremists to use them in subversive activities against the innocent civilians here.

Information on the existence of extremists military training camps in the Inayatqala [placename as received] and Kamilpur areas (which is a flagrant violation of Para 7, Article 2, Document Number 1 of the Geneva accords) of Pakistan is provided to UNGOMAP in the Notice Number 377.

The notices ask UNGOMAP that as per Para 7, Document Number 4 of the said accords investigate the said violations and convey results of its findings to the concerned sides immediately.

India

Link Seen Between Afghan Rebels, 'Terrorists'

BK0504131689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] In the Lok Sabha today members from both sides expressed serious concern over the reported nexus between the Afghan rebels and terrorists in Punjab. They called for effective measures to defeat conspiracies to destabilize the region, particularly India. They were taking part in a special debate on the subject raised by Mr B.R. Bhagat and Mr Uttam Rathar, both Congress-I. Referring to news reports members pointed out that there is a nexus between Afghan rebels, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front and the terrorists in Punjab. They said the Interservices Intelligence of Pakistan is the unseen hand behind the training of these forces.

Official on Foreign Agencies' Activities

BK0604090089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, informed the Lok Sabha today that the government has taken necessary steps to contain the activities of foreign agencies or forces which are trying to destabilize the country. Mr Chidambaram was replying to a special discussion on the reported nexus between Afghan rebels and terrorists in Punjab. The discussion was raised by Mr B.R. Bhagat and Mr Uttam Rathod, both Congress-I.

Sharing the members' concern over the reported news item on the nexus between Afghan rebels and the terrorists in Punjab, Mr Chidambaram said that the Indian intelligence and investigation agencies are very much alert. The government has information that the Interservices Intelligence—ISI—of Pakistan is helping Afghan rebels, the J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] Liberation Front and the terrorists in Punjab acquire arms and plan their operations to destabilize the region. After Mrs Benazir Bhutto became the prime minister of Pakistan, she has taken several measures to contain the activities of the ISI, he added.

Law, Order Situation for 1988 Reviewed

BK0604094789 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0836 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] A review of the law and order situation in country during year just ended shows that agrarian unrest and extremist violence have increased. According to the annual report of the Home Ministry, the communal situation received a slight setback with the Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid issue hightening tension. The state government has moved court on advice of centre for early disposal of cases.

On Punjab the report says security forces continue to maintain pressure on terrorists.

In Jammu and Kashmir reports of some motivated youth being taken across the border and given training to indulge in subversive activities have come to the notice of government. Over a hundred of them have been apprehended and automatic weapons with foreign markings and sessionist [as received] literature recovered from them.

In Assam tribals have resorted to agitational approach in support of their demand for a separate state. The state government has been advised to curb extremist activities with a firm hand.

The report says two important landmarks during year were the signing of an agreement between the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] and the West Bengal government and of a memorandum of settlement with Tripura National Volunteers.

According to the report Andra Pradesh and Bihar accounted for over 93 (?percent) of violent incidents during year. The home minister is coordinating efforts of concerned states to ensure improved policing in affected areas and speedy implementation of socio-economic development plans.

Army Called Out, Curfew Imposed in Kashmir

BK0504162589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the Army was called out and an indefinite curfew imposed in Anantnag town this afternoon after a group of miscreants indulged in arson, looting and stone throwing. A private house and two Forest Department huts were set on fire by the miscreants, who also made an attempt to burn the Anantnag police station. Police resorted to tear gas shelling to disperse the unruly mob.

In Srinagar, three persons were injured—one of them seriously—when police opened fire to disperse stone throwing mobs at (Gaukadal), (Maisuma), and (Khanear). Shops and business establishments remained closed for a third day today. However, government offices and banks functioned normally.

The state chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, took stock of the law and order situation at a high level meeting in Srinagar today.

Assam Strike Ends; Train Services Resume

BK0604032489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] In Assam the 10-day bundh [strike] observed by a section of ABSU [All Assam Bodo Students Union] since the 27th of last month ended this morning. Life in bundh-affected Kokrajhar District and Udalgiri subdivision is gradually returning to normal as shops and markets have opened from early this morning. Regular passenger train services have been resumed after a 10-day suspension. The Assam home minister, Mr Bhrigu Kumar Phukan, has again appealed to the ABSU to sort out the problem through negotiations.

9 People, 2 'Terrorists' Killed in Punjab

BK0504160689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] In Punjab, nine persons, including two terrorists and an assistant subinspector [ASI] of police, have been killed in separate in separate incidents in the last 24 hours. The ASI was gunned down by terrorists near Chajhawal village in Ferozepore District.

In Jullundur District, terrorists attacked a house in Talwandi-Bhairo village and shot dead four members of a family. A farmer was also killed in Amritsar District.

A terrorist, who shot dead a salesman in Ludhiana District last night, was later killed in an encounter with the police near (Sidhwakurd) village. Another terrorist was killed in Gurdaspur District after an encounter with the police in Kalanaur area.

Agreement Signed With PDRY on Oil Exploration

BK0504092789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] India and the People's Republic of Yemen have agreed to participate jointly in exploration and processing of crude oil and natural gas. A decision was taken at a meeting in New Delhi between the minister of state for petroleum and natural gas, Mr Brahm Dutt, and the deputy minister for energy and minerals of Yemen, Mr (Mahmud Mohammad Tarmon).

They also discussed various areas of cooperation in the oil sector. During the discussion, India also offered consultancy services for refining, LPG [liquified petroleum gas] production, computer services and training of personnel from Yemen in the research and development institutes of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

Paper Says Bhutto Winning Against Fundamentalists

BK0104094789 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 24 Mar 89 p 8

[Editorial: "Benazir Asserts Herself"]

[Text] Ms Benazir Bhutto has sought to achieve two objectives by sharply increasing the strength of her council of ministers to 47. One is to make possible a more rational distribution of portfolios and thus to give a more effective administration. The other objective is apparently to give more political aspirants in her party a direct stake in the implementation of her policies based on her progressive outlook. Such a dispersal of power is likely to prove conducive to the evolution of a new polity on healthy lines. This is something which Pakistan, having suffered under the military jackboot for by far the greater part of its existence, sorely needs.

Many eyebrows are likely to be raised not just in Pakistan but in the subcontinent as a whole by the induction of the PM's [Prime Minister's] mother Ms Nusrat Bhutto, too, into the cabinet. This, for instance, looks like reinforcing the trend favouring family rule. Obviously, Ms Bhutto is confident that domestic criticism on this score will not unduly harm her or her party's interests.

There is one favourable circumstance which does seem to have made it likely that such criticism will not be too vicious for comfort. And that is the clear improvement in the ties between Ms Bhutto and Mr Nawaz Sharif, the Punjab Chief Minister, and leaders of the Islamic Democratic Alliance which leads the opposition in the National Assembly. After 100 days on a collision course, the two had their first substantive meeting lasting over two hours on Wednesday and later he signalled to newsmen a more co-operative relationship between the Central and Punjab governments. No one, of course, knows how long the truce will last.

The PM perhaps justifies the inclusion of her mother in the cabinet on the ground that the latter has been a leading politician in her own right. She, for instance, headed the Pakistan People's Party when it was facing cruel repression. And she is at present the co-chairman of the party along with her daughter. Her entry into the cabinet and the simultaneous choice of four other young women from the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] as ministers may also have been meant to be a snub to the fundamentalists, both overt and covert, who sought to block Ms Benazir's appointment as Prime Minister as a violation of Islamic tenets and who still are not reconciled to her regime.

Iran

Khomeyni, Montazeri Supporters Said To Clash

NC0604123689 Paris AFP in English 1158 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, April 6 (AFP)—Several people were killed or wounded in clashes this week in central Iran between supporters of Iranian spiritual guide Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and his former successor-designate Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, an Iranian opposition movement said here Thursday.

The Iraq-based peoples Mojahedin, citing reports received from Iran, said the confrontations occurred Tuesday and Wednesday in Najaf-Abad, Ayatollah Montazeri's hometown.

Pro-Montazeri residents tried to demonstrate, shouting slogans hostile to Ayatollah Khomeyni but were dispersed by Revolutionary Guards militiamen, the Mojahedin announced in a communique. Hundreds were arrested and a night-time curfew was imposed, according to the statement.

Ayatollah Montazeri, who had become increasingly outspoken in his criticism of the course of Iran's Islamic revolution, resigned as Ayatollah Khomeyni's successor-designate on March 28. His appointment in 1985 had never been unanimously endorsed by the Iranian religious hierarchy.

Daily Says Montazeri Echoed Enemy 'Propaganda'
LD0504123289 Tehran IRNA in English 1225 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—Echoing the propaganda of the enemies of the Islamic revolution, not criticism, was partly the reason why Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri's resignation from deputy leadership was accepted, the daily ETTELA'AT wrote Wednesday. It said foreign media had got it wrong in assuming that the affair had to do with sharp criticism of the state.

"The fact is that for some years Ayatollah Montazeri... has criticized the activities of this or that establishment... and no one has been against criticism in principle."

In an editorial, the paper reminded that the imam had at times himself been the strongest critic of the state, notably in his recent firm stand against delays in the judicial process. "Therefore the point about Ayatollah Montazeri is not criticism by itself."

"The point is the presentation of issues which are not criticism but partly the expression of the views of anti-state and anti-revolutionary groups."

Editorial on Saudi King's Visit to Iraq
NC0404155589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Mar 89 p 2

[Unattributed editorial: "Saudi Monarch's Visit a Good Augury If...."]

[Text] Saudi Arabian King Fahd's current trip to Baghdad can be a good augury if, and only if, the political climate of the region is well taken into account. He goes to the Iraqi capital on a first visit by a Saudi monarch for 30 years and received a red-carpet welcome.

The trip occurs after the Saudis' oft-repeated assertions that they are disposed to think of relations with Iran in terms of lasting and cordial ties and that there is nothing to hamper the normalization of such relations and that it can no doubt be resumed sooner or later.

King Fahd's talks with Iraqi officials are according to official reports, expected to focus on the Iran-Iraq peace talks and the traditional rift between Syria and Iraq, who both advocate the Ba'th ideology in the Arab world.

Given the fact that Saudi Arabia has always wielded its own particular style of influence on the politics of the region, it is more likely than not that this same atmosphere will prevail throughout at the Baghdad meetings. The warm reception given to the Saudi monarch was intended to be a gesture of thanks to reciprocate the oil-rich state's generous aid and strong political backing for Iraq during the just over eight-year-long war. With this as the backstop, the talks we guess may turn out to be one at which the Iraqi regime plays the part of listener and not as before during the 8-year war a nation soliciting its case in the hope of being helped out.

If the Saudis have really meant what they have said continuously for years to the effect that they wish to have peace prevail in the region, then they will have to find peaceful means to bridge the rifts that threaten to break the region apart. Now this visit is yet another occasion and an opportunity at the disposal of the Saudis to translate their intentions into practical steps towards the achievement of such goals. Moreover, it is widely believed and it is indeed the best thing that can happen, that the hurdles in the way of Iran-Iraq peace can best be overcome without the need for meddling by foreign powers outside the region. The Saudi king, with his political weight in the region, is the ideal person to initiate and bring about such rapprochement.

As for the Iraq-Syria issue, which is most likely to figure in the Saudi monarch's talks in Baghdad, we doubt there can be much headway made. This is going to be more than a difficult, if not a virtually impossible task, in view of the latest in developments in Lebanon which has driven the wedge harder and widened the rifts between the longstanding regional enemies.

All in all the Saudi-Iraq talks may range to all these topics and perhaps also to what concerns the two countries in regard to the newly formed Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and its links to the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) which has been in existence for almost ten years now. But these alone need not take up all the time and the chances are that a good deal of the talks will be focused on how to get the stalled Iran-Iraq peace talks going and how to get the two sides on to one negotiating table.

What we can hope for, and would strongly urge, is that Saudi Arabia uses this chance to turn the advantages they have into persuading Iraq to follow a realistic policy and that the Saudis themselves will, as they have done in the past eight months, keep the momentum of their own realistic foreign policies going and not allow this to be contaminated, or take any ugly turn, swayed by the euphoria that the Saudi monarch's visit to Baghdad has evoked.

Karrubi Comments on Saudi Arabia's Hajj Plans
LD0504190389 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Ahvaz, April 5, IRNA—Iranian pilgrims will be sent to Mecca this year provided the Riyadh government announces its readiness within the next few days, said head of the Shahid (martyr) Foundation Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi Wednesday.

Last year Saudi Arabia had barred Iranian pilgrims from performing the hajj, following its massacre of over 400 pilgrims—mostly Iranians—near Islam's holiest site the Ka'ba, a year before.

The shocking massacre occured on July 31 1987, when Saudi police suddenly opened fire on a peaceful pilgrim rally which in accordance with religious duties was displaying "antipathy toward unbelievers", in the street of the holy Mecca.

Elsewhere, Karrubi said that a seven billion rial (dlrs 100 mn) credit has been allocated for building schools for children of martyrs.

Khomeyni Meets With Karrubi, Martyrs' Families

LD0504122989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Excerpt] The families of martyrs, those missing in action [MIA's] and prisoners of war [POW's] of the towns of Damavand, Saveh, Mahmudabad, and Amol, together with the Friday prayers leaders and representatives from those towns, as well as a group of families of martyrs, MIA's, and POW's from the Al-Fajr housing complex and other areas of Tehran, accompanied by Hojjats ol-Eslam Emam-Jamrani and Nezamzadeh—Imam Khomeyni's representatives in the Endowment Organization—as well as Koranic reciters participating in the sixth round of the Koranic recitation competition, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Rasuli-Mahallati—the imam's representative in the Housing Foundation—together with some officials from that foundation, met Imam Khomeyni this morning at his Jamaran residence.

During that meeting Karrubi—the imam's representative and supervisor of the Islamic revolution's Martyrs' Foundation—gave a speech on the conspiracies of the world's arrogant powers against Islam and the Muslim nation of Iran. He paid tribute to the sacrifices of the martyrs of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war, and those of the families of martyrs, MIA's, and POW's. He also praised the valuable efforts of the officials of the Endowment Organization and the Housing Foundation, conveying to them Imam Khomeyni's appreciation of their work. In conclusion, the imam of ummah responded to the warm sentiments of those present. You will now hear a detailed report about the meeting.

[Begin Karrubi recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to the pure souls of Islam's martyrs, in particular the martyrs of the Islamic revolution. The conspiracies of the arrogant powers and global blasphemy against Islam still continue. Everyday such conspiracies surface under different names, titles, and guises. One day a book is written by one named Salman Rushdie. Subsequently, all of the West's cultural institutions are mobilized to publish this blasphemous book. Another day the hand of arrogance emerges from the sleeve of Michel 'Awn in Lebanon, trying to weaken and destroy Muslims.

What is necessary to confront and resist these complex and in-depth conspiracies is the vigilance and unity of Islamic forces all over the world. Praise be to God's blessing that through the resolute leadership of our esteemed imam an extraordinary state of vigilance has been created among the Islamic movements the world over. The world's Muslims are now prepared, as a unified mass, to raise the flag of Islam and safeguard the integrity and independence of Islam. They will struggle for that end; and we will struggle also.

God willing, we will bear witness to a day in which there is no sign of the enemies of Islam and no sign of global blasphemy, God willing. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Bahraini Amir Contacts Khamene'i on West's 'Plot'

LD0504161389 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—The charge d'affaires for Bahrain, today submitted a message from Bahrain's Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah to the foreign minister for President 'Ali Khamene'i dealing with the West's cultural plot against Islam.

Yaqub Yusuf 'Abdullah also handed Velayati a message from his Bahraini counterpart Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak calling on all Islamic states to stand by all means against the West's cultural attacks on the sanctities of Muslims.

Commentary on 'Misunderstanding' With Turkey

NC0604082389 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Unattributed commentary: "Misunderstanding in Relations Between Iran and Turkey"]

[Excerpts] A number of Western media organs have been publishing provocative reports on the recent mutual withdrawal of the Iranian and Turkish ambassadors by the Iranian and Turkish Governments. Actually, these organs have been trying to describe the ban on the use of the headdress in Turkish universities as the cause of tension between the two countries.

Although Iran has concerned itself with every kind of attitude toward Islam in every part of the world, regardless of whether it is for or against Islam, this concern has always come within the framework of international relations. The officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have always made an effort to respect this principle.

What has made the Turkish Government so sensitive is the statement made by the Iranian ambassador in Turkey to the newspaper HURRIYET. In a report it attributed to the Iranian ambassador on 28 March, HURRIYET published a number of views related to the future of the political and economic relations between the two countries. The Iranian Embassy in Ankara denied these views on the same day.

The truth is that HURRIYET published material based on unknown facts and not approved by the Iranian and Turkish Foreign Affairs Ministries. This matter is being used as propaganda material by those opposing friendship between Iran and Turkey.

On 4 April, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said the following: Regrettably, an effort has been made to darken relations between the two countries through the collaboration of certain anti-Islamic groups in Turkey. In addition, there have been provocations by Western countries against sacred Islamic values and a number of recent initiatives have been made in Turkey against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Undoubtedly, Turkish Government officials have misunderstood the Iranian people and government's reaction against the ban of the headdress in Turkish universities. The Turkish Government must adopt a more objective viewpoint and eliminate this mistake. The Turkish Government must take into consideration the fact that the demonstration organized by a group of Iranian students in Tehran against the ban on the use of the headdress indicates the importance the Iranian people attach to Islamic matters. In view of this, the question of the demonstration must not be interpreted as interference in internal affairs. [passage omitted]

The political and economic interests of the two neighboring Muslim countries require that they cooperate to foil the efforts of Western countries to present Islam as a worthless religion, render ineffective the conspiracies aimed at undermining friendly relations among the Muslim countries, and improve their cooperation.

UK Press Freedom Questioned by Journalists

LD0504145889 Tehran IRNA in English 1447 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] London, April 5, IRNA—Foreign reporters say Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is guilty of "systematic and extensive" control of the British media.

Citing the ban on broadcast interviews with the Sinn Fein party in Northern Ireland and the Spycatcher affair, the International Federation of Journalists in Brussels accused Thatcher of denying the public the right to be informed.

In its report on the press in Britain Wednesday, the journalists also attacked some of their British colleagues for their apparent content [as received] in accepting the restrictive atmosphere and the erosion of their rights.

The media in Britain have been idly standing by allowing greater state interference and censorship while at the same time supporting the government's argument that the publication of such books as "The Satanic Verses" represents free expression in the U.K.

The report further attacked what is called the popular tabloid press in Britain for giving Thatcher excuses to curb the media by the style and behaviour of their reporting.

4 U.S. Ships Leave Persian Gulf; 9 Remain

NC0204205189 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] The U.S. naval force withdrew some of its warships from the Persian Gulf yesterday for the first time since the Iran-Iraq cease-fire took effect. Three minesweepers and one tank transporter [naqilat dabbabat] sailed from the Stait of Hormuz for the U.S. east coast. This reduces the number of U.S. ships in the area to 10. Nine other ships are stationed in the Sea of Oman.

Khamene'i Arrives in Ilam, Meets Officials

LD0504132289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Central News Unit correspondent Biglari has sent us a report on the president's trip to the province of Ilam. We invite you to listen:

[Begin Biglari recording] Continuing his visit to the west of the country, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, arrived this morning in Ilam and was met at the airport by the imam's representative and Ilam's Friday prayers leader, the governor, and local officials. [end recording]

On arriving in Ilam the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, in an interview with our reporter, described the aim of his trip as meeting the province's people—in particular the region's tribal people. He said: This province's the people have suffered much hardship and damage during the imposed war. This proves the high degree of these people's selflessness.

The president made a few remarks about the government's attention to reconstructing this underprivileged province, and said: The government is currently devising some plans to reconstruct war-areas, including Ilam. This will be accomplished through the all-encompassing participation of the people and the steadfastness of the country's officials. Concluding the interview, Khamene'i paid tribute to the unique resistance shown by the province's people during the imposed war. [passage omitted]

The Central News Unit reports from Bakhtaran that Khamene'i, the president and chairman of Supreme Defense Council, on the 2d day of his visit to Bakhtaran Province, before leaving for Ilam Province today, attended a gathering of the resilient people of Gilan-e Gharb. He praised the epic-making character and selflessness of that town's people during the 8 years of sacred defense. He said: The epics that you have made during the imposed war can be considered as one of the most distinguished and beautiful acts displayed to the aggressive enemy. [passage omitted]

65 'Notorious' Drug Traffickers Face Execution

LD0504191389 Tehran IRNA in English 1847 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—Some 65 notorious drug traffickers will be hanged throughout the country Thursday, announced prosecutor general Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Musavi-Kho'iniha today. The smugglers, he said in a televised interview, are to be hanged either in prisons or at public squares.

The prosecutor general warned smugglers at large that the anti-narcotic campaign will continue till "this social evil is uprooted." If smugglers report to the officials before being arrested, their punishment will be commuted, he promised.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'iniha said that so far some 313 traffickers have been executed since a new law against drug smugglers went into effect.

The Islamic Republic of Iran after giving a six-month respite to smugglers and addicts to quit their bad habit, enforced a severe anti-narcotic law on January 21.

On the speed of courts to follow up cases pertaining to public security, the prosecutor general said it only takes 32 days to investigate a murder case and issue the required verdict. The smugglers case takes a maximum period of one week he concluded.

KEYHAN Calls New Economic Law 'Too Weak'

PM0504154789 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Mar 89 p 2

[Editorial by Bahram Qasemi: "New Law To Combat High Prices Is Too Weak"]

[Text] A state law has been passed to deal with hoarders and those who sell at inflated prices. This law has been anxiously awaited by those people eager to fight profit-seekers and looters. However, from what one can gather from the details of the law, it will not control the profitseekers operating out of sheer cunning and daring.

On the one hand, our poor and low-income people graciously tolerated the problems and shortages of the revolution and the war. On the other hand, their weak bodies had to bear the wicked blows of opportunistic capitalists. They were waiting for a stern, serious move to provide a cure for their wounds.

Although the government's inability to provide goods caused some high prices and inflation, one cannot blame the massive abuse and huge price differences on the government.

Under the present conditions, our society is drowning in a crisis of high prices; financial pressures are threatening to take away the last breath and energy of most people. During the past 10 years, those who had any wealth have seen their wealth multiply 100 times, and opportunities and looters have never missed a chance to hoard goods, sell rotten goods, etc., in order to make even more money. These conditions require a stronger and sterner law.

This country's shortages and financial abuses are big problems that cannot be dealt with by a weak law. Today, everyone knows that the capitalists made more money during the first few years after the revolution than ever before.

The martyr of the mosque, Ayatollah Saduqi, in his last Friday prayers and before his martyrdom, strongly attacked opportunists and economic terrorists. He said: The profit made by a capitalist I know greater in the first 3 years of the revolution, because of the chaos, than his total income for the past 30 years. Figures show that more than 90 percent of bank savings belong to 1.5 percent of the account holders. These types of statistics and a hundred more frightening aspects show the economic strength of a special group of people. Under these conditions when high prices and hoarding are causing distress to the government, the punishment for the wrongdoers must be as severe as the conditions themselves.

According to the law on narcotics smuggling, a smuggler caught with 30 grams of heroin is sentenced to death. However the state law dealing with hoarding and high prices does not provide heavy punishments for economic terrorists and the looters of the poor people's money, who cause unemployment, poverty, corruption, addiction, and a hundred other things. All that happens to them is that their trade permit is withdrawn so they cannot engage in business and they are identified to the public.

The passing of such a law can help stem the anarchy caused by these economic leeches, and its proper execution can lessen wrongdoings. However, it was not expected that these opportunists—who have always placed obstacles in the Islamic regime's and the government's path and have not stopped at anything to make more money, even at the price of the regime's downfall, would receive light punishments.

Without a doubt, the patient and revolutionary people will not forget the pain of the economic pressures forced on them by a special group of people as long as the dark shadow of looters and high prices hangs over their heads. They welcome any direct action that will cut off the hands of the looters and the economic leeches.

Nepal

Foreign Minister Assesses Trade, Transit Treaty

BK0504120789 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 28 Mar 88 pp 1, 7

[Text] Kathmandu, March 27 (RSS)—Minister for Foreign Affairs Sailendra Kumar Upadhyaya delivered two draft proposals for new trade and transit arrangements while holding talks in New Delhi with his Indian counterpart P.V. Narasimha Rao yesterday.

In an interview given to RSS [RASHTRIYE SAMACHAR SAMITI—Nepalese press agency] and Nepal Television after his arrival in Kathmandu today, Mr. Upadhyaya said that Nepal had proposed to hold and conclude discussions as soon as possible on new trade and transit arrangements.

The Foreign Minister said that one of the objectives of his visit to New Delhi was to make it clear that Nepal was prepared to hold talks on any new arrangements following the expiry of the two treaties with India.

He further clarified, "Nepal was ever ready to hold negotiations even before the expiry of the treaties and the reports indicating that Nepal was evading to negotiate with India are misleading."

He said even after the expiry of the treaties Nepal had proposed for continuing with provisions made in the treaties till new arrangements could be made for trade and transit.

Foreign Minister Upadhyaya said, "Nepal had expected that India keeping in view the traditional relations with this country would have positive attitude. But the abrogation of the treaty on 23rd March changed situation. We expressed our willingness to hold talks again when India gave only two points for movement of commodities to Nepal via India and made our desire for dialogue known to India."

He noted "Nepal had prepared the draft proposals in response to Indian proposal that Nepal would be treated as the most favoured nation. Nepalese side proposed that "reasonable time" given till new arrangements could be made.

Mr. Upadhyaya in this connection noted "We are not in need of special favour and are grateful to India, a developing country itself, for its cooperation so far."

On the question of bilateral trade, Mr. Upadhyaya said that Nepal would continue to have trade with India in just the normal manner as India is doing trade with other countries of the region.

He said there was no point in asking India to give things which it said it would not, but since India said it would deal with Nepal as the most favoured nation Nepal proposed that the provisions of the treaties be continued till new arrangement could be made. But Nepal's request in this connection was turned down saying that the provisions of the treaties that had been terminated could not be applicable.

On the question of transit the Foreign Minister said that transit was a right of a landlocked country and the question of how many transit points were to be given to Nepal should be resolved bilaterally.

Replying to a question, the Foreign Minister said that life would not be as comfortable as it was before the abrogation of the treaties and in fact some hardships were already there.

Mr. Upadhyaya, however, added that HMG [his majesty's government] would do whatever possible to mitigate the hardships of the people.

Replying to yet another question, the Foreign Minister said," The political fall-outs and the like will of course be experienced in a situation like this when no treaties on trade and transmit could be signed between Nepal and India.

"We will do our best not to vitiate the relations but the same kind of understanding should also be there on Indian side."

Earlier, Foreign Minister Upadhyaya said, "We held talks in a cordial atmosphere in New Delhi."

He said that although views were exchanged on a number of topics, discussions focussed mainly on the two treaties.

Pakistani Foreign Affairs Adviser Meets Premier

BK0504165789 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's adviser on foreign affairs and national security, Iqbal Akhund, called on Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha at the prime minister's residence in Kathmandu today. On the occasion, Mr Akhund handed over to Prime Minister Shrestha a letter from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. They also exchanged views on bilateral matters and other (?primary) subjects.

Mr Akhund earlier called on Minister for Foreign Affairs Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya and the minister of [words indistinct]. The minister of state for communications, Kamal Thapa, received Mr Akhund at the Tribhuvan International Airport when he arrived this morning on a 2-day visit.

Pakistan

Armed Man Arrested Prior to Bhutto Rally

BK0504150489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1443 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad, April 5 (AFP)—A man armed with a loaded pistol was arrested in Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's home town shortly before she arrived there for a brief visit, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said Wednesday.

Thousands of people had gathered Tuesday at the Bhutto family grave near Larkana, some 300 miles north of Karachi where Ms Bhutto was due to lay a wreath at the grave of her father, executed former Premier Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, to mark the 10th anniversary of his death. But people gathered at the helipad spotted a man armed with a pistol, and pounced on him.

The Police Chief of Larkana Major Khalid Sheikh said the man was badly beaten by the mob "who suspected his intentions," the APP said.

He identified the gunman as Shah Jehan, 22, a resident of Shikarpur District in Ms Bhutto's home province of southern Sind and said he "looked like a drug addict," the APP said.

Major Sheikh said after initial questioning the man had been taken to Karachi for a "thorough interrogation."

Ms Bhutto later addressed a rally attended by tens of thousands of people from across the country, the official agency reported.

Bhutto Comments on Economic Problems, Cabinet

BK0604043589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said that the main objective of the elected government is to give respect to the people and to provide them with an opportunity to lead a better life. Talking to newsmen in Karachi last night, she said wholehearted efforts are being made to improve the inequitable economic situation, adding that several steps have already been taken to stabilize the economic position. She said that economic stability will be achieved after some time.

The prime minister said next year's budget will be somewhat tougher in view of the economic situation, because we inherited an empty national exchequer and it is causing difficulties for us. Ms Benazir Bhutto said emphasis has been placed on the People's Program to provide facilities to people at the local level. She added that we realize the difficulties being faced by the people and the government will resolutely strive to contain the situation.

The prime minister said it is not correct to say that the present federal cabinet is too large. Five or six new ministries have been formed for which new ministers are needed, she added. On the inclusion of Begum Nusrat Bhutto [Benazir Bhutto's mother] in the federal cabinet, she said it is necessary so that she can run the governmental administration in my absence.

The prime minister said her party has considered at length the question of taking necessary steps to maintain law and order all over the country, especially in Karachi, where violent incidents have recurred in the past. She added the party discussed in detail the proposal to form a special patrol force of the federal government for Karachi city. She plans to preside over a high-level meeting in Karachi to finalize the necessary security steps for the city. The prime minister said that implementation of the party program is continuing, which aims to eradicate the difficulties being faced by the poor people and ensure the welfare of the neglected segments of society.

Attends PPP Committee Session

BK0604053589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] The Central Executive Committee session of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] in Karachi, which lasted for more than 6 hours, discussed various issues of national importance. It was presided over by Begum Nusrat Bhutto, the party chairperson. The session, which was also attended by the party's cochairperson and prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, reviewed the unemployment situation in the country, the administrative affairs of the party, popular programs of the present government, and its overall economic performance during the last 4 months. The session also reviewed the law and order situation in the country, particularly in Sind and Karachi.

The prime minister briefed the committee members on the elected democratic government's foreign policy and took them into her confidence in this regard. The session reviewed the results of recent by-elections in the country as members presented their views and analyses.

The highest policy-making body of the PPP also decided to separate party and governmental positions in principle and said that a party membership campaign will be started soon all over the country. The session offered prayers for the salvation of those killed in recent disturbances in Karachi. It adopted a resolution which urged the people to protect their freedom and rights from antidemocracy and antipeople elements. The resolution said that Pakistan's prestige, both at home and abroad, has been enhanced by the steps taken by Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto in restoring all the basic rights and freedom of the people, freedom of the press, releasing detainees sentenced under martial law regulations, and her policy on the return of political exiles. The session also decided to set up an overseas trust fund to collect donations from party members for the publicity of party programs and its achievements.

Kabul Allegations of Interference Rejected

BK0504142889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Pakistan has rejected as false and baseless all the Kabul regime's allegations about interference in Afghanistan's affairs. Commenting on a letter written by the Kabul regime's foreign minister calling for an emergency session of the UN Security Council, a Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the Kabul regime is giving an international dimension to the Afghanistan problem by claiming that the war is posing a threat to regional peace.

He said none of the allegations made by the Kabul regime have ever been confirmed by the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP]. He said Pakistan is fully cooperating with the UNGOMAP and this cooperation will continue in the future as well. Pakistan has violated no provision of the Geneva accords, he added.

About the establishment of border posts along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border to make the Geneva accords more effective, the spokesman said Pakistan is ready for talks with the UN secretary general in this regard, although there is no mention of the establishment of such posts in the Geneva accords.

Indian Assistance to Kabul Regime Not Confirmed

BK0504154489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Excerpts] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the Kabul regime is trying to give an international dimension to the Afghanistan problem by claiming that the Afghan war is posing a threat to regional peace. He was commenting on a letter written by the Kabul regime's foreign minister, 'Abdul Wakil, calling for an emergency session of the UN Security Council. The spokesman rejected as false and baseless the Kabul regime's allegations about interference in Afghanistan's affairs. [passage omitted]

The spokesman said the reports that Indian pilots and soldiers are assisting the Najibullah regime in carrying out bombing raids on the mujahidin, especially in the Jalalabad area, could not be confirmed.

About the proposed trial of two alleged Pakistanis in Kabul, the spokesman described it as a propaganda ploy and said the international news agencies have reported that the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was not allowed to contact the two Pakistanis. The Pakistani Embassy officials have tried time and again to meet the two persons, but the Kabul regime did not allow them to do so.

Answering a question, the spokesman said that the former king of Afghanistan, Zahir Shah, has not applied for a visa to Pakistan.

Afghanistan's Call for UN Meeting 'Propaganda'

BK0504135989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1345 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad, April 5 (AFP)—Islamabad Wednesday dismissed as a propaganda ploy Kabul's call for an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council to discuss alleged involvement of Pakistani militia in fighting in Afghanistan.

"The Kabul regime is trying to externalise its internal problem," by claiming that fighting in Afghanistan was posing a threat to peace in the region, a Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen here.

He said the guerrilla war in Afghanistan was a domestic issue and that the Security Council "does not discuss the internal situation" of a country.

Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil has called for an emergency meeting of the Security Council to review the Geneva accords on Afghanistan in the light of what Kabul has said is Pakistani involvement in the battle for the strategic eastern garrison city of Jalalabad.

Kabul protested to the United Nations Good Offices Mission for Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) that Pakistan had violated the U.N.-backed accord signed last year by Islamabad and Kabul. The accord was guaranteed by the United States and the Soviet Union and paved the way for the complete pull out of Soviet troops from Afghanistan in February.

Kabul said that Pakistani intelligence authorities had planned the Jalalabad offensive and that up to 3,500 Pakistani militia had taken part in the month-long battle, in addition to providing logistical support.

Pakistan-based resistance groups began a major assault on Jalalabad in early March, aiming at taking the city and establishing a base for their interim government, set up after Soviet forces withdrew on February 15.

The Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman described the charges as "baseless," and said that Islamabad was extending full cooperation to the UNGOMAP team.

He said Pakistan's permanent representative at the U.N. was formulating "an appropriate response" to the Kabul regime's latest move, and that Pakistan was ready to discuss with the U.N. secretary general any issue relating to the UNGOMAP within its mandate.

General Rauli Helminen, chief of UNGOMAP, said at a news conference in Kabul that this type of mission was the first in U.N. history, as U.N. peace-keeping forces usually only go on site after a ceasefire, BAKHTAR reported. However, he said it was "very difficult" to operate within the given conditions unless the Security Council provided a new mandate. "The complaints from both sides are very inaccurate", he said, adding that it was often difficult to establish exactly what was happening in Afghanistan.

The Foreign Office spokesman said that the arrest and trial of two men in Jalalabad, who are alleged to be Pakistanis helping the Afghan resistance, was "also a desperate ploy to prove that Pakistanis are involved" in the fighting.

"To my knowledge they are not Pakistanis," he said, adding that any proof to the contrary should be shown to Islamabad. The Pakistan Embassy in Kabul had not been provided access to the two detainees, he said.

He also denied press reports that the Pakistani Embassy in Rome refused a visa to exiled Afghan King Zahir Shah. "He has not applied for a Pakistani visa," the spokesman said.

Senators Voice Support for Afghan Policy

BK0104113189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] The Senate was prorogued today to mark the end of its 20th session. Earlier, it continued discussion on the motion of thanks on the president's address to both Houses of Parliament in December last year. Two senators took part in the discussion today. They fully supported president's determination for strict adherence to the Constitution to solve political problems and for maintaining democratic traditions in the country. They pleaded for constant dialogue between the treasury benches and the opposition and for maintaining excellent relationship between the federation and the provinces through negotiations and understanding.

The senators also paid glowing tribute to the heroic struggle of the Afghan mujahidin and expressed support for the policy on Afghanistan, leading to the implementation of Geneva accords.

USSR Envoy, Ishaq Khan Discuss Afghanistan

BK0604054589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Viktor Yakunin, Soviet ambassador to Pakistan, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad yesterday. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and the Afghanistan issue.

President Ishaq Khan Meets Japanese Trade Group

OW0504012289 Tokyo KYODO in English 2354 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad, April 4 KYODO—Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq [Khan] on Tuesday called upon Japan to plow back at least a part of its huge trade surplus with Pakistan in the form of joint ventures and transfer of technology.

Ishaq made the call in a meeting with a 15-member delegation of Japanese traders and industrialists who called on him at the presidential palace.

The Japanese delegation, which attended a 2-day meeting of the Pakistan-Japan joint committee in Karachi, was headed by Shunji Ueda, chairman of the committee and president of Nichimen Corp.

"As fellow Asians and a country having very cordial relations with Japan, we have a claim on the Japanese resources and expertise and hope that at least part of the huge trade imbalance would be invested in Pakistan in joint ventures," Ishaq told the Japanese delegation. He said that Pakistan wanted to emulate Japan by undertaking development without losing its cultural moorings and traditional values.

The meeting was also attended by the Japanese Ambassador in Pakistan Shinji Kobayashi and office bearers of Pakistan's Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Ueda suggested that Pakistan should make more vigorous efforts to project its potential in Japan.

Interior Minister Assails Punjab Government

BK0504033289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] The federal interior minister, Chowdhury Aitzaz Ahsan, says the Punjab government has again failed to protect federal government employees, offices, and property which fall under its jurisdiction. Speaking at a news conference in Karachi last night, he said the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad government has been repeatedly violating the laws of the country by coercing federal government employees to obey its illegal orders. He referred to the incident of trespass by some persons into the office of the district registration officer in Gujranwala and seizing a large number of national identity cards. He said the Punjab government has not granted permission to police to file cases against those persons, and hence he had to send the Federal Investigating Agency director general to file the first information report.

The adviser for establishments, Rao Abdur Rashid Khan, who was also present on the occasion, said he has warned the deputy inspector general of police and superintendent of police of Gujranwala that if the persons involved in these incidents are not arrested within 24 hours, stern action will be taken against them. He said the federal government has rescinded the rights granted by the former government to the provincial governments on transferring federal government employees and has advised its employees not to comply with the illegal orders at any cost.

Sri Lanka

Strike by 'Subversives' Has 'Minimal Impact'

BK0504131089 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1140 GMT 5 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 5 April (LANKAPUVATH)—Police told LANKAPUVATH that today's call by subversives under threat of reprisals for a work stoppage to mark the April 5, 1971 insurrection, had minimal impact on Sri

Lanka's population of 17 million people and the situation was mostly calm and quiet. There were however a few serious incidents reported from the outstations.

Reports reaching police headquarters from all parts of the country stated that most government offices, banks, co-operative wholesale establishments, and Salu Sala outlets were open. Unlike in previous subversive calls for countrywide work stoppages, the public today were not severely affected. Shops were closed in many areas, but people knowing in advance the subversives call had purchased their requirements well in time. One man who threw a parcel containing an exploding cracker aimed at causing scare was arrested. [sentence as received]

In Colombo although many shops and eating houses were closed, there were several others open and workers were able to obtain lunch, tea, etc., as usual. Public transport was available, with the Sri Lanka Transport Board and the railway providing services, thousands reported to work. However, the private bus fleet was depleted and this caused some inconvenience to commuters.

Giving a round up of the situation in the Southern Province, police said that shops and banks were open and Sri Lanka Transport Board buses were plying supplemented by a few private buses.

Meanwhile, several subversives were reported dead or wounded in a shoot out with a combined Army-police patrol at Willathawa Junction, Bingiriya, in Kurunegala, at 0300 hours (local time) today. A policeman and a soldier were also reported wounded in this encounter.

Subversives had opened fire at the Meegallawa police station at 0300 hours (local time) today. They had withdrawn when the police returned the fire. There were no injuries to policemen. Subversive casualties were not known. Lt. M.D.T.A. Bandula of the Gemunu Watch was killed when he attempted to remove a booby trap explosive device at the Mamadala junction at 0630 hours (local time) today, on the Embilipitiya Nonagama Road in Sri Lanka's Southern Province District of Hambantota. The explosive device had been hidden in a rigid foam structure resembling a pandal [pavilion].

Two policemen were critically wounded when subversives flung a hand grenade at a police patrol at Walasgala in Dickwella in the southern Matara District. Several seats in a railway compartment were burnt when subversives threw a Molotov cocktail petrol bomb at a Galle-Colombo train at Gintota in Galle at 0340 hours (local time) this morning. Subversives also damaged the windscreen of the locomotive which however proceeded on its journey. A subinspector of police and two constables were wounded when a booby trap concealed in an object exploded as they were trying to remove it at Rathuwatte in Panadura, 27 kilometres south of Colombo, at 0600 hours (local time) today.

V.W. Arthur Sirisena, a member of the Uva Provincial Council, succumbed to his injuries at the Badulla Hospital yesterday after having been shot at by a gang of youths, suspected to be subversives. Reginald Gunaratne, principal of the Gampola Wimaladharma Maha Vidyalaya [College] and W.P. Kumarasinghe, a grama sevaka [village official] were shot dead in their homes yesterday at Delpitiya in the Central Province district of Kandy. Police said that subversives had set off several explosions in order to scare people, but this had no effect.

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40 'Subversives' Surrender in Response to Amnesty

BK0504165589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1529 GMT 5 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 5, (LANKAPUVATH)—Forty subversives have surrendered to the security forces following Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa's offer of an amnesty last Saturday, official sources told LANKAPUVATH.

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